

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 183

SATURDAY AUGUST 1, 2009

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support a proposal to hire medical doctors from countries other than the U.S. and Canada?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS 6

As of July 31, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



GMA in US

Philippine President Gloria Arroyo finally met with U.S. President Obama, the first Southeast Asian leader to do so.

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Toys for Boys



Walter Mueller knows his Transformers.

YOUNG-STYLE...Page 18

Permanent presence sought for US Customs and Border Protection on Rota, Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is

seeking a permanent presence of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Rota and Tinian, citing its convenience, efficiency and practicality, instead of fly-

ing federal personnel down from Saipan to the two outer islands every time passengers arrive at the ports and need to be inspected.

Manglona stressed this on Thursday when he raised concerns with Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director

See PERMANENT on Page 4

Four gubernatorial bets spar over CUC, economy, drugs



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Although not a formal debate, the gubernatorial forum held yesterday by the 11th Youth Congress saw the four candidates sparring over the economy, illegal drugs, education and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., among other issues that they said impact today's youth.

See FOUR on Page 4

Dr. David Borja, second from left, a candidate for lieutenant governor, addresses the audience while gubernatorial candidates wait for their turn to answer questions in yesterday's candidate forum organized by the 11th Youth Congress at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. From left, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Borja, Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, and Juan "Pan" Guerrero. Other picture shows the audience listening to the candidates talk.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

US govt wants to seize Tim's boat

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government wants to seize a boat owned by former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley has notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that during Villagomez's sentencing, the U.S. government will move for a final order of forfeiture



Villagomez

of a boat registered to the former official.

O'Malley described the boat as a 1994 Yamaha 311 Boat, Hull No. 0811087, registered to Villagomez under the name "Dr. V."

The prosecutor said the boat "was either involved in the offense or was a traceable proceed of the crime."

The prosecution's theory was that See US GOVT on Page 4

Car hits woman in San Antonio

A car struck and seriously injured a woman who was crossing Beach Road in San Antonio Thursday night.

The condition of the victim remains unclear as of yesterday. The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the accident.

Saipan Tribune learned from witnesses that the woman was already in the center lane to cross the highway, coming from the direction of a vegetable store, when a

car suddenly struck her on the inner lane. The woman was tossed into the air due to the strong impact, landing back on the center lane.

The car, which was driven by a woman, stopped. A male passenger was seen checking the victim, who was lying on the pavement.

People in the area called police. Medics brought the victim to the Common-

See CAR on Page 4

Bill aims to give 'in-state' tuition to NMI college students in US. PAGE 2

Munson orders Labor to issue TWA to 3 jobless guards. PAGE 3

Local

Bill aims to give 'in-state' tuition to NMI college students in US

WASHINGTON, D.C.—College students from the Northern Mariana Islands would pay "in-state" or "resident" tuition at any public college or university in the United States under provisions of legislation introduced Thursday by Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP). The bill authorizes tuition grants of up to \$15,000 per year to make a college education more affordable to graduates of Northern Marianas high schools. By reducing cost Sablan's proposal also increases the number of public universities that NMI students can aspire to attend.

"The purpose of this bill is to expand the educational options available to our high school seniors and allow them to attend some of the best schools in the country regardless of cost," said Sablan.

Under Sablan's legislation, the federal government would make funds

available each year for grants to Northern Marianas college students. The grants would close the gap between the tuition charged by state universities for residents and the tuition charged out-of-state students. A student from the Northern Marianas would only pay the regular "in-state" tuition. The federal grant would cover the rest of the cost.

The difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition can be substantial. At the University of Guam, for instance, the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition can add up to over \$9,000. Under Sablan's bill that \$9,000 difference would be covered by a federal grant.

At the University of Hawaii, students from the Northern Marianas can expect to pay \$1,692 more than residents of the state. At nationally-recognized schools, like the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), out-of-state

students can pay up to \$19,000 more in tuition and fees.

"Often, cost determines which schools our students decide to attend," said Sablan. "So, instead of getting the best education a student is qualified for or going to a school that offers the particular program a student wants to pursue, cost determines the quality and content of the education. I want to help our students overcome that economic limitation."

Sablan says that the bill is not meant to take students away from Northern Marianas College. "NMC does a wonderful job educating our students. But it's not a four-year university. Students from the Northern Marianas will still choose to go to NMC for the first years of college — because they can stay at home, because it's affordable, because an AA from NMC is a great stepping-stone to a bachelor's

degree at a four-year school.

"What my bill does is give more people a chance to take that step from a community college here at home to a larger university anywhere in the United States, including Guam and Puerto Rico."

Sablan's tuition assistance grant bill is modeled on a law enacted in 1999 that created a similar program for residents of the District of Columbia. DC has only one public, four-year school within its boundaries, the University of the District of Columbia. DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton successfully argued that the federal government needed to help students she represented overcome this limitation on their college options.

Sablan's bill works like this: When a Northern Marianas high school graduate is accepted to a state university, he or she will then be able to apply for

a tuition assistance grant. The grant will cover a portion of the tuition up to \$15,000, so that the remainder paid by the student in cash, loans, grants, and family assistance would be the same amount a student living in that state would pay. There would be a lifetime limit of \$75,000 for any one student.

"We're going to have to work very hard to get this bill passed — and even harder to get it funded," says Sablan.

"I know it's ambitious. But our students have to be ambitious when it comes to their education. My hope is that someday soon our students will be able to take advantages of this grant, add it together with all the other federal aid initiatives passed by this Congress, and have the financial support they need to attend the school of their dreams.

"And the more of our students who achieve their educational dreams, the more secure the future of the Northern Marianas will be 30 to 50 years down the road." (PR)

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65 students participate in Teens in Motion

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Youth Congress tallied a total of 65 participants from private and public secondary schools in yesterday's annual Youth Summit held at the Multi-Purpose Center.

Dubbed "Teens in Motion," students were presented serious issues affecting their lives and were treated to a pre-election forum of gubernatorial candidates.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Youth Speaker Alana May Leon Guerrero said she was elated by the successful turnout and commended the cooperation and attentiveness of the participants.

Among the issues that provoked great interest among the crowd was the presentation made by the Community Guidance Center's representative, Maggie Untalan, who talked about the effects of substance abuse on young citizens.

John Moreno of the Department of Public Health got the attention of students with his presentation on HIV/STDs and its effects on people.

Giving clear guidelines on what to choose for their meals, Northern Marianas College's Patricia Coleman was lauded for her presentation about healthy eating habits.

To develop teamwork, camaraderie, leadership and ability to handle pressures, students were asked to join the "Challenge Masters," where they performed special activities designed to enhance their capabilities and emotions.

Leon Guerrero described the summit as an important event that enlightened each participant on the many pressing issues in their environment.

She admitted that data on obese and overweight kids, and youths who engage in underage drinking and pregnancy are very alarming. She emphasized that "peer pressure" has a huge impact among youths in the Commonwealth.

"As a high school student...I can say there's a peer pressure. Many teens want to drink and smoke because their friends are into it. They don't realize that it's not the cool thing they believe in. We're here to show them the truth about these issues," Leon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Seong Bin Lee, a student from Marianas Baptist Academy, is convinced the summit's highlight was its focus on heightening participants' awareness and preparation.

"This really educates the youth about pressing issues," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that by showing the "facts and impacts," teens would be guided to make the right choice and decisions for their lives.

Munson orders Labor to issue TWA to 3 jobless guards

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A U.S. federal court judge has ordered the CNMI Department of Labor to issue temporary work authorization permits to three security guards who have been jobless for many months and have a pending lawsuit against their employer.

In an order issued Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson authorized security guards Jessie Z. Vasquez, Nestor B. Dalo, and Rogelio E. Gallega to seek

and obtain from Labor temporary work permits that will be valid for six months or until their lawsuit has been resolved in court, whichever occurs first.

Munson said Labor representatives previously appeared in court and expressed no objection to allowing the security guards to remain and work in the CNMI pending the resolution of the case.

The plaintiffs—who were assigned in schools—filed the lawsuit in February against a security agency that allegedly refused to pay them regular time

and overtime, and conducted illegal deductions.

Vasquez, Dalo, and Gallega sued the Triple K Corp., which owns Global Security Agency, for violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act and breach of contract.

The three asked the court to order Triple K pay them their unpaid regular time, overtime pay, damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for plaintiffs, stated in the complaint that in 2006, Triple K hired the three to work as

security guards.

Vasquez worked until September 2008, while Dalo worked until January 2009. Gallega was still employed with Triple K as of the filing of the lawsuit last week.

Berline said the three worked as security guards primarily at various schools located on Saipan, but also provided security services to other places as well.

Berline filed a motion asking the court to direct Labor to allow his clients to remain in the CNMI and to obtain employment pending the resolution of their claims.

The lawyer said Triple K terminated each plaintiff's employment.

Berline said under Public Law 15-108, unless the court issues an order preventing the three's repatriation, the alien workers may be forced to return to the Philippines at any time.

"Plaintiffs have not been employed since their last employment with Triple K," Berline added.

The lawyer had questioned in federal court the legality of some provisions and procedures of the new labor law.

NMC hires 4 instructors for Fall semester

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Four new instructors will join the Northern Marianas College workforce after the management approved their employment contracts starting this Fall semester.

Besides the four, the office of Dr. Carmen Fernandez confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that two more individuals may join

the teacher population when the applicants accept the job offers.

Fernandez assured that the management is serious in filling other key vacancies in anticipation of the upcoming semester.

"I am very pleased with these highly-qualified additions to the academics team. The appointments of these instructors reflect the college's commitment to provide the best quality education to our students," she said.

Of the remaining instructor vacancies, Fernandez said two candidates have already been offered a position and the NMC is awaiting the candidates' responses while the other three vacancies have already been announced and recruitment for these positions is ongoing.

"The vacancies are at various stages of the recruitment process," she said.

She's confident that these

faculty positions will be filled before the start of classes on Aug. 24. "I have no doubt we will have a full slate of instructors prepared to engage our students," she added.

NMC recently hired two individuals for management posts: Cynthia Deleon Guerrero as dean of Academic Programs and Services and Galvin Deleon Guerrero as director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

The NMC president said they also filled a number of other key

staff positions, including budget officer, entomologist, Rota program coordinator, and other positions.

"The Northern Marianas College is home to many exceptional and accomplished individuals. We continuously work on attracting and hiring the best candidates for our team," she added.

NMC currently has 30 instructional faculty members and four department chairpersons. About 10 instructors are needed for the new semester.



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Airport, seaport tighten parking rules

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will enforce a new system that would tighten its parking rules and will ensure better accountability in its operation.

Acting CPA executive director Ed Mendiola said yesterday that, from the existing ticket forms, parking customers will be issued a card upon entry and exit to the airport's and seaport's parking areas.

The agency posted yesterday its first public notice of its intention to enforce

the new system.

CPA disclosed that, except for commuter terminal customers, the same parking fee will be collected at both airport and seaports, which is one dollar for the first hour and an additional dollar for each additional hour or fraction of an hour.

Mendiola said commuter terminal customers will be given a grace period of 15 minutes and will be charged \$1 dollar when the elapsed time between entry and exit exceeds the grace period for the first hour and an additional dollar for each additional hour or less.

The new system for the parking facilities is now installed at the airport, commuter terminal, and port of Saipan.

"The new system dispenses a plastic card upon entry and the card is returned when exiting. The system reads the elapsed time between entry and exit and indicates the appropriate charge," the CPA official said.

Mendiola added that the total charge for each 24-hour period is \$10 for the main terminal, commuter terminal, and the port of Saipan. CPA charges also a dollar for each additional hour or frac-

tion of an hour.

He said the agency will recognize valid handicap placards in its parking spaces only if handicapped persons are onboard the vehicle.

He reminded customers that the agency will charge \$10 when a customer loses the parking card. All fees, Mendiola said, is nonrefundable.

Federal agencies earlier identified the weak financial control and management of the agency in its operation.

Based on the preliminary's auditor's report on compliance, it was found that a material weakness existed in CPA's

internal controls.

As a result, federal agencies will continue to place CPA on the grantee watch list.

Saipan Tribune learned that in a compliance report, federal agencies identified over \$400,000 in questioned costs relating to federal grants—a problem that could be averted if finances are properly handled by the agency.

It was earlier disclosed that CPA's downgrading directly relates to upheaval within the agency management and the turnover in the accounting department.

Federal agencies believe that the ongoing improvement will only continue if management of CPA remains stable and the required human assets in accounting are recruited, trained, and retained.

FOUR

From Page 1

In one instance, independent candidate Juan "Pan" Guerrero said CUC is "broken" and should be privatized instead of throwing in more money to repair the engines, a sentiment echoed by Republican Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider. When his turn came, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party said, "Yes, CUC was broken; not anymore."

Dr. David Borja, who represented his running mate and independent gubernatorial aspirant Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero, said CUC should use the "right" fuel to run its engines. He said years back, CUC was using heavy fuel costing \$1.60 a gallon, but now uses diesel at \$3.69 a gallon, resulting in \$85 million worth of fuel a year. The figures could not be immediately confirmed independently.

Borja said he and Guerrero will "kill" the fuel surcharge and will reinstate the earned income credit to help low-income families. The EIC program was scrapped by former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Hofschneider, in an interview after the forum, said that, while it's good to pitch something like using cheaper oil

or helping low-income earners, "how do we pay for it?" He said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency won't allow CUC to use fuel that's cheaper but more harmful to the environment.

Education

The gubernatorial forum lasted for over two hours, instead of the original plan of only one hour at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The candidates were given five minutes each to present their platform for the youth, were asked eight questions prepared by youth senators on different issues, and were then asked to deliver their closing remarks.

Fitial, a member of the first constitutional convention that crafted provision on education, said his administration allocates over 20 percent of the general fund to primary and secondary education, a lot more than the 15 percent mandated by the Constitution. He also said his administration allots more than 4 percent of the general fund to Northern Marianas College although the Constitution mandates only 1 percent from government resources.

But Guerrero questioned the lack of resources for the Public School System when it receives the biggest federal education funding among territories.

He also said the CNMI should have an education master plan.

Spat with DEA

On the problem of teen substance abuse and illegal drugs, Hofschneider said the CNMI should be working closely with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, a dig at Fitial's spat with the joint CNMI-DEA Task Force.

Fitial pulled out local police and customers officers from the task force to protest DEA actions subjecting passengers of an inaugural Shanghai Airlines flights to intensive body searches in October 2008.

"My administration continues to enforce the laws dealing with substance abuse. I want to clarify something. There seems to be misunderstanding. The DEA is now more vigilant than before. Why? Because local enforcement is involved," he said.

The governor said when he removed local enforcers from the DEA Task Force, his administration did not stop enforcing anti-drug laws. He added that there have been more drug-related arrests since then. He thanked DEA for the training it provides and other assistance, but said he just dislikes the "politicking" by a DEA agent involved in last year's incident.

Guerrero, for his part, said while

he agrees with Fitial that DEA agents should not be politicking, the CNMI should work more cooperatively with the federal agency since it has the resources and technical abilities to further help the CNMI deal with drug issues.

Economy

On the issue of economy, Borja said he and his running mate "will cut the [CUC] surcharge that everyone's paying, including businesses." He said the savings will be passed on to the workers employed by these businesses.

Fitial said the economy has always been his priority. He said his administration will continue to entice foreign investments to grow the economy and therefore fund public services and programs for the youth.

Hofschneider said the CNMI can't wait for the global economy to improve before it does something to help tourism, for example. He said people should bring back the lost "Hafa Adai" spirit, and should ensure that tourists will have a safe and enjoyable stay on the islands rather than "breaking into their cars," among other things. He said there's need to bring back integrity and trust in government so that foreign investors will put their investments in the CNMI.

The candidates also asked the audience to read each candidate's platform carefully before deciding whom to vote for.

Youth Congress Speaker Alana Leon Guerrero, at the opening of the gubernatorial forum, stressed that the event is not a "debate."

The forum was part of the youth sum-

mit, which also included presentations on youth issues that included substance abuse, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and healthy eating habits.

The candidates cited teen pregnancy and substance abuse when asked about their opinion on most pressing youth issues, but all said these issues can be dealt with if there is enough parental guidance, character building, funding for youth programs, good economy, and government priority.

Reaction

Genevieve Gottwald, 15, a student at Marianas High School, said the forum gave her a chance to know more about the gubernatorial candidates' take on issues affecting the youth. Youth Congress Floor Leader John Ayuyu, 17, echoed this.

Devaney Dela Cruz, 15, said she most liked the part where other candidates said there's lack of enforcement of drug laws but Fitial said there is proper enforcement.

Quina Mendiola, 18, said the forum will help her decide whom to vote for in the November elections.

"I am also glad that they were respectful of each other. Nothing got out of hand," Mendiola told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Youth Congress-sponsored forum was the first formal setting where the gubernatorial candidates were able face off each other for the first time.

Besides the youth, also present at the forum were supporters of the candidates, lawmakers and Cabinet members.

PERMANENT

From Page 1

Efrain F. Camacho's June 26 letter to CBP San Francisco field operations director Richard Vigna.

"In your letter to Mr. Vigna, it appears that CPA has minimized the importance of having CBP personnel stationed on the islands of Rota and Tinian. It has been suggested that CBP 'fly personnel down' as needed for chartered flights," Manglona told Camacho in a July 30 letter.

Camacho is currently off island and CPA officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

The senator asked Camacho on unscheduled arrivals, particularly private sailing vessels entering Rota and Tinian harbors, especially since Vigna, he said, stated that "the admissibility of each individual arriving at a port shall only be determined by a CBP officer."

Customs and Border Protection is the largest component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which will take over CNMI immigration by Nov. 28.

"Without CBP 'boots on the ground' this would mean that for all incoming flights, private or commercial, and for any seagoing vessels entering the ports

of Rota or Tinian, CBP would have to fly their personnel into our islands, seriously delaying and inconveniencing visitors to our islands. In my opinion, it would be much more practical to have a permanent CBP presence on Rota and Tinian," Manglona said.

Rota has seen over 30 charter flights arrive from Japan over the past year, and Tinian continues to push for direct international flights from China.

"For the continuation of these flights, and to bring in additional charters, it will be necessary to have a CBP presence on island. Without their presence, we may be sending a negative message to carriers which may, in turn, lead them to discontinuing service and look toward Guam as a transit point for those wishing to visit our islands," Manglona added.

Camacho, during a special CPA board meeting last week, told board members that CBP wants to use a significant portion of the airport to build its home station when federal authorities take over local immigration on Nov. 28.

He said the request involves access to the existing immigration area plus an additional 15,000 square feet and other areas for Saipan airport alone. The federal agency requested the same for airport sites on Rota and Tinian. CPA said improvements to these facilities will require substantial costs, and will

wait for the arrival of two CBP representatives to discuss details of the site request.

Manglona said CBP has specifically asked federal inspection services space at Rota and Tinian airports and seaports.

He encouraged CPA to work with CBP to identify funding to upgrade its facilities on Rota and Tinian that have been identified by CBP's Vigna, adding that the federal agency stated it may fund some or all of the numerous build-outs, reconfigurations and/or construction required to bring federal inspection services space into compliance with CBP's requirements and standards.

Manglona said 702 funding or Federal Aviation Administration airport improvement project monies might be used for this purpose.

"I am very much aware of CPA's precarious financial position, but I sincerely hope that this will not derail efforts to deploy U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers on the islands of Rota and Tinian," Manglona said.

He added that his office is open to CPA should it need the Legislature's help in the upgrading the port facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota to meet CPB standards and requirements.

US GOVT

From Page 1

Villagomez's efforts to push the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to enter into a contract with Blue Pacific was repayment for a loan to buy a boat.

Villagomez's sister, Joaquina V. Santos, owns Blue Pacific, which was licensed to engage in the business of "general retail merchandising."

Former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero testified that Villagomez admitted to borrowing between \$45,000 to \$60,000 from his sister (Joaquina Santos) and brother-in-law (former Commerce chief James San-

tos) to purchase a boat named "Dr. V."

The prosecution presented to the court during the trial a check dated Oct. 31, 2006, for \$50,000 that was drawn upon Islas Micronesia Sales' bank account. The check was signed by Islas' owner James Santos and was made payable to Villagomez.

The defense, however, asserted that there was nothing wrong for a sister to help his brother borrow money.

Last April 25, Villagomez and the Santos couple were found guilty of charges relating to a scheme to defraud CUC through needless purchases of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme.

The sentencing for the three is set for Wednesday, Aug. 5, starting at 8am.

CAR

From Page 1

wealth Health Center.

A witness said the car was not speeding when it struck the woman.

Some witnesses described the victim as an old woman. There was no information whether an arrest was made or who was found at fault.

DPS is expected to release information in the case on Monday. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

Tudela supports move to increase poker license fees

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela supports the move to increase the license fees for poker and pachinko machine operators on the island.

Tudela said this would give the local government the opportunity to continue supporting student beneficiaries who rely on these funds.

Rep. David Apatang recently introduced House Local Bill 16-38 to jack up the license fee for poker and pachinko machines on Saipan from \$6,000 to \$7,500 annually.

The money will go to the Saipan Higher Education Finan-

cial Assistance program as well as other programs in the third senatorial district.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb earlier filed a bill to lower the fee from \$6,000 to \$2,000, saying this will encourage the wider offering of pachinko machines at amusement arcades. The Chamber of Commerce opposed Tebuteb's proposal.

Tudela lauded the members of the Legislature for their interest in the education of the children of Saipan who are pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies.

The student beneficiaries are mostly enrolled at the Northern Marianas College. Some are at off-island schools.

"I am sure that you are all

aware that every year we see a good number of our children who are graduating from high school and on their way to college," Tudela said in a letter to Tebuteb last week.

He said that as the number of students going to college increases, there is also a need for more revenues.

"By increasing the poker and pachinko license fees, this will enable us to continue subsidizing the education of our children at institutions of higher learning," Tudela wrote.

He urged the other members of the Legislature to give their utmost attention to Apatang's bill and he is hoping to see its smooth approval.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red flag up at 8 Saipan beach sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on eight sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico Dump, American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, Garapan Fishing Dock, Sugar Dock and Unai Dangkulo on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria, enterococci. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

Samples from Managaha and Tinian did not exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards and were assigned green flags. Rota beaches were not sampled this week.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11

samples from the shore surrounding Managaha.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Life fire training on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire training release 96 EBS on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on Aug. 3 - 06, 2009, from 11am to 1am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. (EMO)

BACK TO SCHOOL

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MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 and 2010

RFP - 09-10 - MPLT - 01

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) and the Office of the Public Auditor are soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audit of MPLT for the two fiscal years ending September 30, 2009 and 2010. Separate audits and reports are to be performed and issued for each year. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

STANDARDS:
The audit shall be performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards (for Audit of Government Organizations, Programs, Activities and Functions issued by the Comptroller General of the United States).

REQUIRED REPORTS:
The audit report shall include the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, the auditor's report on the study and evaluation of internal control systems, which must identify the organization's significant internal accounting controls, and the auditor's report on compliance with laws, regulations, grants, and contracts.

Proposals must at least have the following information:

TITLE PAGE:
1. Requests for Proposal Subject
2. Name of CPA or CPA firm
3. Local address and telephone number
4. Name of contact person and submission date

TRANSMITTAL LETTER:
1. Briefly state your understanding of the audit to be performed. Include an affirmative statement that your firm can perform and complete the work within the time period specified.
2. State a comprehensive fee for which the work will be performed.
3. Briefly describe your work plan, and state the target dates for the entrance and exit conferences and for the delivery of the draft and final audit report package.

COMPANY'S PROFILE:
1. Provide a brief description of the proposer, firm-personnel, educational background and experience, number of staff and staff level (partner, manager, etc.), and client listing.
2. The proposer must make an affirmative statement or provide supporting document to state/show that: (1) at least the partners are CPAs, (2) it meets the independence requirement of the Standards For Audits of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions, (3) it does not have a record of substandard audit work, (4) it meets all specific requirements imposed by CNMI laws and other regulations, and (5) its system of quality control for accounting and auditing practice is in conformity with standards established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
3. The proposal should identify Principals/Partners, Audit Managers, and other staff members who will work on the audit. Resumes including relevant experience and continuing education for in-charge auditors up to the partner with final responsibility for the engagement should be included.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA:
The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:
1. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating an understanding of the scope of the work to be performed and completing the work on time (percentage weight 25%).
2. Qualifications and experience of the firm (percentage weight 25%).
3. Qualifications and technical competence of the staff to be assigned. Education, position in the firm, and years and types of experience will be considered (percentage weight 25%).
4. Audit fee (percentage weight 25%).


Cost is not expected to be the controlling factor in the selection of a Contractor for this solicitation. The degree of importance of cost as a factor could become greater depending upon the equality of the proposals for the other factors (the listed criteria) evaluated; where competing proposals are determined to be substantially equal (within 3%), total cost would become the controlling factor. In that event, the best and final cost/price may be requested from the offers that are substantially equal. The right to award based upon the cost/price submitted with the offer, however, is reserved, if the cost/price is determined fair and reasonable for the services.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposal shall be submitted to:


MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
Morgen Building, 1st Floor
Suite #106
P.O. BOX 501089
SAIPAN, MP 96950

The deadline for submission of proposals is August 17, 2009. The contract for this audit will be awarded by August 24, 2009 and the audit work can commence on November 15, 2009 and 2010. The final audit reports shall be completed and delivered by January 31, 2010 and 2011.

Inquires may be directed to Redie Dela Cruz, Office Manager at telephone number (670) 235-4401, by fax (670) 235-4450, or by email at mplh@pticom.com.

SPORT FISH RESTORATION

NOTICE TO ALL BOATERS

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
CNMI

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Fish and Wildlife has deployed Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) at the following positions:

Latitude	Longitude	Buoy	General Area
15°21 35 N	145°50 05 E	AA	North of Saipan
14°59 30 N	145°43 48 E	CC	East of Tinian
14°05 48 N	145°09 12 E	DD	SE of Rota
14°12 42 N	145°10 48 E	EE	NNW of Rota
15°59 54 N	145°27 42 E	FF	West of Tinian
15°04 36 N	145°32 56 E	GG	West of Tinian
15°09 51 N	145°28 15 E	HH	SW of Saipan
15°14 54 N	145°29 47 E	II	West of Saipan
15°19 19 N	145°32 20 E	JJ	West of Saipan
15°17 11 N	145°41 20 E	KK	NW of Managaha
15°20 45 N	145°46 00 E	LL	SW Marpi Reef

- Coordinates are set in WGS84 datum.
- Units are in Degrees Minutes Seconds (D/M/S).
- Buoys have a drift range of .5 nautical miles from the above-mentioned positions.

These FAD's are to be utilized for the sole purpose of recreational fishing. Boaters are advised not to anchor/moor onto any of these systems as they may cause damage to the buoy. This project is funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Grant. Copies of the positions and map are available on the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife website: (http://www.dfw.gov.mp/Fisheries/FAD_Locations_60909.html).

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 183

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Science in the swim

Back when Nike was a goddess and not something to put on your feet, Olympic runners raced barefoot. What a difference a few millennia make. Today's runners, with the rare exception of, say, a Zola Budd, wear shoes hyper-designed to cushion heel strike, improve toe-off and minimize flex, all in ultra-lightweight materials. That's not to mention the training regimens, physical therapists and bouncier tracks.

As international sporting events test the ever-closer limits of human performance, science and engineering have become as much a part of the winning formula as the human. So why the fuss about high-tech swimsuits?

FINA, the international governing body of swimming, last week banned the full-body suits that streamline the physique and repel water to make for a more seal-like plunge through the pool. Chalk up one for the old school, unlike sports that have embraced new technology.

Advances in baseball bat design have lightened the bat while enhancing the sweet spot. Pro bicycles feature carbon-fiber frames and index shifting; riders are aerodynamically outfitted down to their sunglasses. Golf clubs have bigger heads and springier shafts, and the rubber cores of golf balls have been replaced with materials designed to maximize flight.

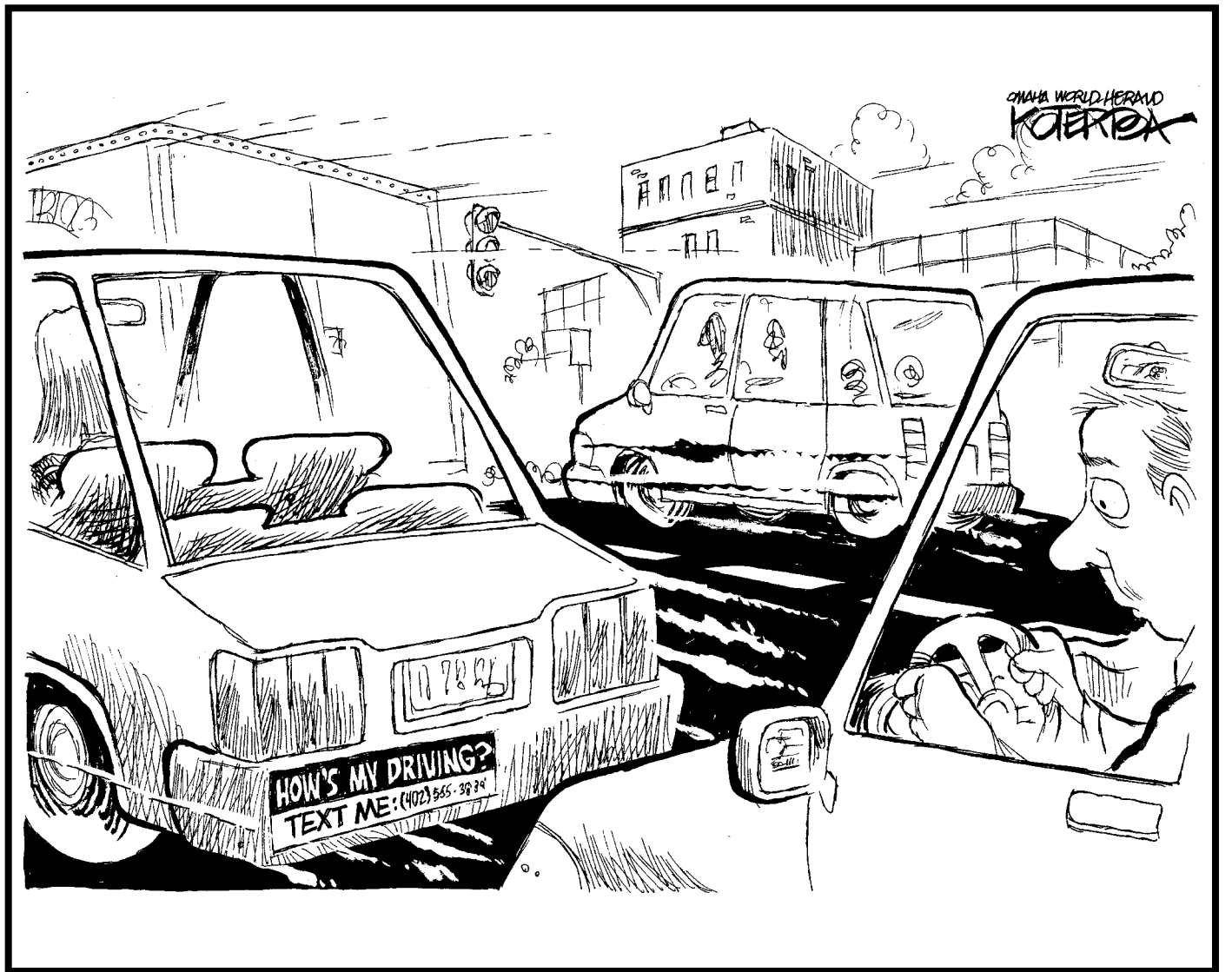
In judging the advantages that science brings to our physical endeavors, the governing bodies of sports must consider two questions: Is it fair, meaning reasonably accessible to most world-class athletes? And is it safe? Steroids are damaging not just to star athletes but to the ambitious youngsters who follow their example.

A third factor was at play in the FINA decision: the speed with which the polyurethane-laced suits can make records of just a few years ago look like quaint relics of an ancient era. New records have been set practically by the hour this week at the world championships in Italy.

But short of a swimsuit fitted with motorized propellers, or high-jump shoes soled with rocket boosters, there's little reason to reject improved design and materials based on skittishness about the records set and broken in seemingly less time than the 20 minutes it takes to don one of the new swimsuits. Fans like to compare performances of the past with those of the present. Who's the greater golfer, Tiger Woods or Arnold Palmer? Sporting events should be a contest among athletes, not between current athletes and the ghosts of athletes past.

The ancient Greeks ran barefoot—and naked, for that matter—in celebration of the human physique's possibilities. In the era of high-tech sports, we recognize that although human athletic performance has limits, human ingenuity doesn't.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Amazon incidents remind that Big Brother still looms

By DAVID L. ULIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Last week, in a stunning display of public irony, Amazon.com remotely deleted digital copies of the George Orwell novels "1984" and "Animal Farm" from customers' Kindle devices after learning that the electronic publisher of these works, MobileReference, did not have the rights to them. For a couple days, observers in print and on the Web outdid themselves, noting that in "1984," government censors rewrite history by consigning offending news items to an incinerator chute known as the memory hole.

Orwell's technological vision may have been primitive, but he seems to have predicted something fundamental about the dangers of information systems. In the wake of the uproar, Amazon announced that it would no longer use its wireless capabilities to erase readers' e-books, and Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos apologized.

Lesson learned, right? Maybe, but then again, maybe not. This is, after all, the second major issue involving Amazon's control of content in the past three months; in April, "a glitch" in the company's sales-ranking feature led to the inadvertent de-ranking of hundreds of gay and lesbian books.

I don't mean to suggest that these incidents are related or that they are anything other than what Amazon claims they are: mistakes made by a company staking out the brave new world of electronic bookselling.

What is this brave new world, however, and are we sure it's the one we want?

For advocates, it's a buzzing hive of interactivity in which the solitary seeker at a bricks-and-mortar bookstore is upgraded to the collective mentality of an online "community." And yet this community can't help but operate according to its own hierarchy—a fact we confront any time a book is de-ranked or electronically deleted.

Such issues have been largely overlooked in the Amazon discussion, which takes for granted that "glitches" are inevitable and self-correcting, that the market will police itself. (We've seen how well that worked on Wall Street.)

Of course, much is overlooked when it comes to Amazon, which takes our preconceptions about bookselling and publishing and turns them upside down. For those who have warned for 20 years about the homogenizing dangers of chain bookstores, Amazon is a conundrum: an independent bookstore whose ubiquity makes such distinctions obsolete.

In addition, the company has branched out beyond the traditional role of retailer, producing a piece of merchandise, the Kindle, that blurs the lines even further, functioning as both an e-book reader

and a purchase portal to the store. While we're seduced by cool new technology, Amazon could be rehabbing an old structure—remember monopolies?

Meanwhile, we embrace Amazon and the Kindle with little real consideration for what it all means, as we move increasingly toward an electronic model for intellectual and literary life. Much of the talk about the digital future has to do with its inevitability, but though that may be true, it overlooks more subtle questions of engagement and control.

For Amazon, books are a business, and the more hegemony it exerts over the market, the better off it is. For the culture, though, books and information serve as a collective soul, a memory bank, something bigger than simple commerce that shouldn't be merely bought and sold.

Because of that, it's not the incidents themselves but their ramifications that are disturbing—the idea that Amazon can effectively alter the collective memory at will. The issue, in other words, isn't that Amazon has erased material from people's Kindles, or de-ranked gay and lesbian writers, but that it can.

This is the problem with the digitized canon and the electronic frontier: It's mutable to the point of being vulnerable. We are asked to trust each other's goodwill, to believe in the commons, even though we know people and institutions try to rewrite history all the time.

There's always a justification—whether it be a rights issue (as it was with the Orwell books) or a programming error—but the result is the same. The collective memory, our shared informational heritage, is compromised, and we are the poorer for it, not to mention at the mercy of the very sorts of outside forces writers like Orwell have warned against.

I'm not a Luddite. I have a Kindle (although I still prefer to read on paper), and when I bought an iPod Touch, I loaded it with books. Like many people, I now live at the intersection of technology and language, ideas, "content," which I see as a place of possibility, where we have profound new tools to move the word forward.

Still, as much as this excites me, something about its fluidity makes me wary, aware that such possibilities carry risks.

Does Amazon, as its detractors claim, want to control, or even censor, certain types of literature? As long as there's money to be made, I can't see why it would. But economics is a slippery territory, defined by self-interest rather than the public good. And that, as Amazon continues to remind us, makes for its own kind of memory hole.

Ulin is book editor of the Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Profits we should cheer

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A specter is haunting America: the specter of profit. We have become fearful that somewhere, somehow, an evil corporation has found a way to make lots of money. Flash back three years. In 2006, Exxon Mobil announced the highest profit in the history of American corporate enterprise. Politicians and pundits stumbled over each other to call for an investigation and for some sort of confiscatory tax on the money the company earned. Profit, it seemed, was an evil, but large profit was even worse.

Today, the debate on the overhaul of the health-care system sparks a shiver of déjà vu. The leitmotif of the conversation about the coming shape of health insurance is that the villain is the system of private insurance. “For-profit” firms come under constant attack from activists and members of Congress.

Thus, a recent news release from the AFL-CIO began with this evidently alarming fact: “Profits at 10 of the country’s largest publicly traded health insurance companies rose 428 percent from 2000 to 2007.” Even had the figures been correct—they weren’t—we are seeing the same circus. Profit is the enemy. America could be made pure, if only profit could be purged.

This attitude was wrong in 2006. It is wrong now. High profits are excellent news. When corporate earnings reach record levels, we should be celebrating. The only way a firm can make money is to sell people what they want at a price they are willing to pay. If a firm makes lots of money, lots of people are getting what they want.

To the country, profit is a benefit. Record profit means record taxes paid. But put that aside. When profits are high, firms are able to reinvest, expand and hire. And profits accrue to the benefit of those who own stocks: overwhelmingly, pension funds and mutual funds. In other words, high corporate profits today signal better retirements tomorrow.

Another reason to celebrate profit is the incentive it creates. When profits can be made, entrepreneurs provide more of needed goods and services. Consider an example common to the first-year contracts course in every law school: Suppose that the state of Quin-nipiac suffers a devastating hurricane. Power is out over thousands of square miles. An entrepreneur from another state, seeing the problem, buys a few dozen portable generators at \$500 each, rents a truck and drives them to Quin-nipiac, where he posts them for sale at \$2,000 each—a 300 percent markup.

Based on recent experience, it is likely the media will respond with fury and the attorney general of Quin-nipiac will open an investigation into price-gouging. The result? When the next hurricane arrives, the entrepreneur will stay put, and three dozen homeowners who were willing to pay for power will not have it. There will be fewer portable generators in Quin-nipiac than there would have been if the seller were left alone.

When political anger over profit reduces the willingness of investors to take risks, the nation suffers. According to news reports, one reason the Obama administration has had so much trouble finding buyers for the toxic assets it hopes to remove from financial institutions’ balance sheets is a concern by financiers that should they go along with the plan and make rather than lose money, they will be hauled before Congress to explain themselves.

And although it is easy to be dismayed by excess, trying to regulate profit makes things worse. Capital flows to places where returns are highest. The more exercised our political leaders become when profits rise, the more investment capital will remain abroad.

The search for profit has dangers. There are few legal ways to enhance profits other than cost-cutting, improving efficiency or innovating. This can lead to wondrous inventions—the iPod, say—but it can also create serious dislocations, as when companies close plants and lay off workers. Remedying those human costs is part of what most of us want government to do. What we must avoid, however, is making the remedy so severe that profitability becomes impossible.

Consider the bills in Congress that seek to limit the freedom of federally aided automakers to close dealerships or to build the cars that buyers want. Preserving local jobs and building greener cars are admirable objectives, but a firm that is forced to sacrifice profitability to attain them is unlikely to be competitive over the long haul. Indeed, one reason the “public option” health insurance program under debate may turn out to be more expensive than advocates suggest is that here, unlike in Europe, we are unlikely to put up with government restrictions on what sorts of care will be available, especially for seniors. A board of experts might decide to limit access to hip replacements, for instance, but there is little chance Congress will let them get away with it.

Private insurers, by contrast, will cut whatever they can. This puts them at constant war with regulators and patients, but beneath this tension is a certain useful discipline. We want health care to be cheaper, and the for-profit health-care industry has every incentive to make it so. Supporters of the public option tout Medicare’s cost advantages over private insurance, but those are largely obtained by setting below-market reimbursement rates for medical services (meaning that private patients subsidize Medicare patients). Moreover, the costs of compliance with the hundreds of pages of Medicare regulations are also transferred to the providers, and thus, again, to private patients.

I have no problem with a system in which private patients subsidize public patients. I do not even mind calling it a tax. Those who have good jobs should be helping out, and carping about it is uncharitable, especially now. But an expanded public option will be possible only if the for-profit sector remains vibrant and strong—and profitable. Thus, we should all await, with grateful anticipation, the day when American firms again begin to earn the highest profits in history.

Stephen L. Carter, a Yale law professor, is most recently the author of Jericho’s Fall.

The ghosts of Clinton Care

By **EZRA KLEIN**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Barack Obama’s strategy to pass health-care reform seems based on a simple principle: Whatever Bill Clinton did, do the opposite.

Where Clinton and his team crafted their health-care reform plan in the executive branch, Obama has left the details almost entirely to Congress. Where Clinton pursued an ambitious reconstruction of the entire sector, Obama has sought to preserve existing insurance arrangements and win the support of industry players. Where Clinton spent a year developing his bill before even getting to Congress, Obama lashed his efforts to a tight timetable. Clinton’s big push for reform came in a soaring 1993 speech before Congress in which he offered painstaking details; Obama made his argument at last week’s news conference, addressing concerns more than specifying proposals.

Yet some aspects of Clinton’s approach should inform Obama’s effort. Clinton got the politics of reform wrong, but in important ways, he got the policy right. He just got it right too soon.

By the time Clinton took office, the insurance market was changing. Consumers had traditionally relied on the most straightforward of insurance products: indemnity insurance. You chose your doctor or hospital, which sent a bill to your insurer who, you hoped, paid it. That was that. The plans weren’t confined to networks tangled in deductibles and co-pays. But they weren’t holding down costs, either, and the system was becoming unaffordable. Managed care, a rapidly emerging system, envisioned a more central role for insurers. They were paying for your treatment, so why shouldn’t they get some say in how it was conducted?

The managed-care revolution of the mid-90s was inevitable; the financing and delivery of health care could not remain separate forever. But this was a dangerous change. Insurers make money by denying claims. Private insurance is a bit like a fire department that turns a profit by letting buildings burn down.

So Clinton sought to cage managed care inside managed competition, which would regulate insurers and force them to compete for patients. This would give consumers more power, drive the bad actors from the market and generally protect against the excesses of managed care. Clinton’s plan included such other safeguards as out-of-pocket caps and an independent appeals process.

But the public wasn’t as farsighted. Writing legislation that included managed care made it seem as if Clinton was proposing it. Managed care means less choice, provider networks, insurance bureaucrats, complexity. The plan died a painful and public death in Congress and contributed to the GOP’s huge gains in the 1994 elections.

But managed care came anyway. By last year, only 7 percent of American workers were in “traditional” indemnity health plans, while the rest of us—at least, those of us fortunate enough to have insurance—were swimming in the alphabet soup of HMOs and PPOs and HDHPs. We’re all in networks now. We don’t get our choice of doctor. There’s no appeals process. No out-of-pocket caps. Nothing to stop insurers from rejecting our coverage applications based on preexisting conditions. And if we don’t like our insurer? Tough.

“We got managed care,” says Chris Jennings, who was one of Clinton’s top health-care staffers. “But we didn’t get the things that would protect us from managed care. We got the Wild West version of it.”

In the modern health-care system, there is no higher power than the insurance market. And the insurers have grown all the stronger. The Justice Department judges an industry “highly concentrated” if a single company controls more than 42 percent of the market. By that definition, 94 percent of statewide insurance markets are highly concentrated. In the past 13 years, more than 400 corporate mergers have involved health insurers.

Concentrated markets reduce competitive behavior and lead to outsize profits for dominant firms. Predictably, between 2000 and 2007, health-care premiums shot up more than 90 percent and the profits of the 10 largest insurers increased 428 percent. Clinton had promised us managed care within managed competition. Instead, the insurers took control of our care and effectively ended competition.

All this has led to an interesting reversal in this year’s health-care debate. In 1994, people feared Clinton would restrict their choices. In 2009, people want Obama to bring their choices back. On June 2, Obama sent Sens. Ted Kennedy and Max Baucus, key players on reform, a letter laying out his “core belief” on a health overhaul: “that Americans should have better choices for health insurance.” He’s tapping into something. A June Washington Post-ABC News poll showed that 62 percent of Americans support the choice of a public insurance option. But if the public option would drive private insurers out of business and reduce consumer choice, the numbers flip, with 58 percent opposing it.

What people support, in other words, is not public or private insurance, but choice in insurance. That, along with protection from escalating costs, is the inviolable principle of health-care reform.

The health insurance exchanges that Obama envisions—regulated markets, set up by the government, where insurers would compete for business—are the successors to the managed competition that Clinton sought. The regulations on insurer behavior and the out-of-pocket caps are direct descendants of the Clinton bill.

There are important ways, however, in which the current bills do not go as far as Clinton’s plan. To ensure that Americans can keep the coverage they like, they do not always ensure that people can leave insurers they do not like. The insurance exchanges, in particular, are limited to the self-employed, the uninsured and small businesses; an employee of a larger employer would not have any more choice. Indeed, the problem with trying to make sure that everyone can keep what they have is that you can’t change very much. This makes it hard for advocates to explain exactly how health-care reform will improve conditions for the insured, at least in the short term.

Many in the White House say this is not a bug in the proposed system; it’s a deliberate feature. The lesson of Clinton-care was that even if the American people want reform, they do not necessarily want change. And so Obama’s health-care strategy involves a delicate effort to answer the question that doomed Clinton: How do you reform the health-care system without substantially changing it?

But this is not the 1990s. The indemnity insurance that most Americans enjoyed then is virtually nonexistent today. Mergers and takeovers in the insurance market have given people less choice and thus less power. Today, the cost issue is more acute, the president is more popular, the Democrats have more seats in Congress, and the Republicans are more fractured. Obama was right to dismiss those who would “dust off that old playbook.”






But the ghosts still hover. Republicans are fixated on what worked for them in the last health-care battle, and Democrats are overly concerned with what contributed to their failure. Just as Clinton’s plan was weighed down by the impression that it would change too much, history may leave Obama’s effort vulnerable to the charge that it is changing too little.

Ezra Klein reports on domestic and economic policy for The Washington Post. He blogs at washingtonpost.com/ezraklein.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. West winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Rain	▲84 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲83 ▼77
Kosrae	Rain	▲88 ▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼79

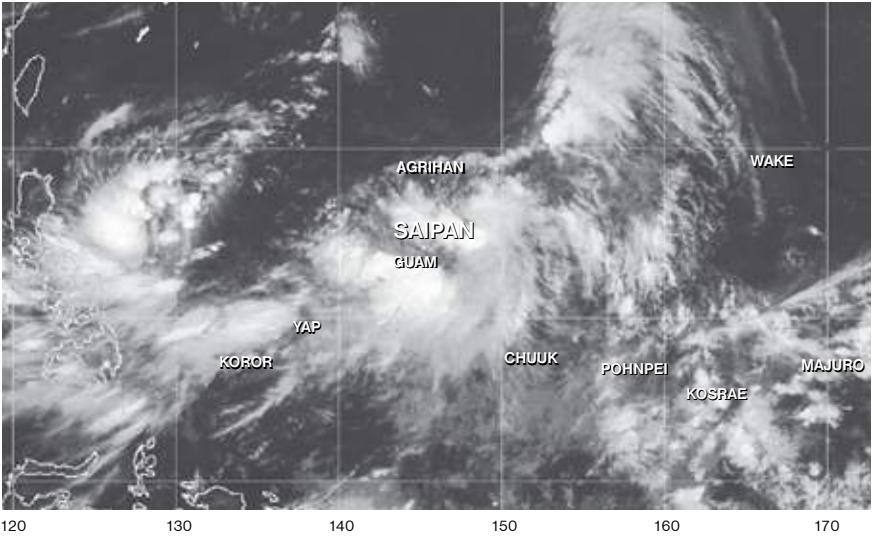
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59 ▼51
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲93 ▼77
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲90 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼76
London	Rain	▲70 ▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84 ▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲60 ▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼79
New York	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼73
Paris	Showers	▲77 ▼55
Pusan	Sunny	▲83 ▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲90 ▼65
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲91 ▼58
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70 ▼56
Seoul	Showers	▲86 ▼68
Tokyo	Showers	▲85 ▼75
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼73

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:38 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:46 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:35 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:57 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from the Northern Philippines through a low-level circulation centered north of Koror at 14N135E to east of Saipan near 15N150E then turns southeastward to end at EQ166E. Low-level convergence along the monsoon trough is combining with upper-level divergence to produce numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms north of Palau between 13N and 19N from 130E to 134E and just east of the Marianas between 10N and 17N from 146E to 154E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the monsoon trough axis over the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 13N146E to 16N139E and also over Pohnpei and Kosrae within 130 miles of a line from 6N157E to 1N167E. Converging west winds south of the monsoon trough are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over both Palau and Yap within 130 miles of a line from 5N133E to 11N140E. Upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Minami Tori Shima but west of Wake Island or north of a line from 14N154E to 13N158E to 16N163E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands and Butaritari atoll between the equator and 10N from 168E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:09 PM	1:39 AM
Sunday	4:00 PM	2:29 AM
Monday	4:47 PM	3:21 AM
Tuesday	5:32 PM	4:13 AM
Wednesday	6:13 PM	5:04 AM

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 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123*	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125*	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily

Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services																										
CATHOLIC																										
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm																										
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm																										
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm																										
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am																										
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm																										
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm																										
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm																										
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm																										
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm																										
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am																										
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm																										
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism																										
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am																										
PROTESTANT																										
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm																										
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm																										
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm																										
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm																										
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions																										
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm																										
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)																										
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koberville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto																										
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)																										
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)																										
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday																										
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm																										
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)																										
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm																										
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm																										
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620																										
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm																										
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)																										
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm																										
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm																										
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm																										
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> <p>Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.</p>				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship												
	9am	Sunday school																								
	10am	Regular worship																								
	6pm	worship																								
Wednesday	7pm	worship																								
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism																										
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer <table><tr><td></td><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr><tr><td>Koberville</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm-9pm</td><td>Prayer meeting</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>7pm-9pm</td><td>Tagalog service</td></tr><tr><td>Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Gualo Rai, Saipan</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				7am-9am	English service		7am-9am	Sunday school		10am-12noon	English service,	Koberville			Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting	Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service	Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church			Gualo Rai, Saipan		
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Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service																								
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church																										
Gualo Rai, Saipan																										
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S																										

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 1, 2000

Utility Corp. renews plea for \$12M unpaid govt bills
Because of its impact on future plans and infrastructure projects, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has pressed anew its effort to collect over \$12 million owed by the government in unpaid utility bills. Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero wrote a letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as recent as two weeks ago, reiterating the need to settle the debt through a payment schedule offered months ago by the government-owned corporation. “I wrote a letter... requesting assistance for the matter to be resolved because we can’t continue shouldering the government’s [utility expenses,” he told reporters in an interview yesterday. “How badly we need that money.”

OIA outlined contacts to spread news on manufactured allegations against CNMI
Determined at tainting the good reputation the CNMI has so diligently built up through the years, even media organizations and independent federal agencies were tapped by the Office of Insular Affairs to facilitate its grand scheme to extend federal immigration and labor laws in the Northern Marianas. The OIA scheme to tarnish CNMI’s public image was crafted professionally that agency insiders even prepared a list of contacts that may be of significant help in spreading the news about the manufactured accusations hurled against the Commonwealth. Former Insular Affairs Director Allen P. Stayman and his public affairs and policy chief David North connived to aggressively pursue negative media against the Northern Marianas and its apparel manufacturing industry.

Aug. 1, 2001

Missing Chinese feared dead
Authorities decided to call off the rescue operations to locate the three Chinese nationals who remain missing after their boat capsized off Tinian Sunday, raising fears that the victims may already be dead. The decision came as government operatives strongly suspect that the Chinese nationals are part of human smuggling operations even if the Department of Labor and Immigration’s head office on Saipan did not confirm the aliens’ immigration status in the CNMI. “Right now, we’re still zero. We might call it off this evening,” Emergency Management Office Director Gregorio De-Leon Guerrero said by telephone yesterday afternoon. “We’re going to presume that they’re missing at sea.”

Higher PSS funding hangs on thin thread
With the killer amendments attached to it by the Senate, the initiative that would have increased the budget of the Public School System by 10 percent has virtually zero chances now of being passed into law. This developed after House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial said that the House of Representatives has no plans of touching House Legislative Initiative 12-001 due to the defective amendments made on the initiative. “We will not touch it. We will never touch that bill as it was amended by the Senate because, in the first place, those amendments are nonsensical,” Fitial stressed.

Aug. 1, 2002

Govt may cut work hours
The Babauta administration is looking at possibly reducing the work hours of government personnel, as it struggles to contain an \$18-million budget deficit that is feared to even escalate if appropriate measures are not undertaken. The bulk of the projected deficit at the end of the fiscal year comes from the Department of Public Health. Acting Public Health Secretary Pete Untalan said the department’s deficit is inevitable and is expected to reach \$9.4 million, as it still needs to buy medicines and other medical supplies. Untalan also disclosed that one of the measures being looked at by the administration to reduce the deficit is by cutting the working hours of government employees by as much as 20 hours bi-weekly. He said the idea was floated in a meeting Monday with Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente and other government officials.

House sets 10 pre-conditions for govt
The House of Representatives can only allow the Babauta administration to spend beyond the \$193 million level set for this fiscal year if it bites the bullet and implements cost-cutting measures that would show proof it is practicing due diligence. During Monday’s meeting between Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the lower chamber, House leaders outlined 10 courses of action that the administration may take to prove due diligence in its financial actions. These 10 conditions include strict implementation of the salary cap, a possible reduction in salaries across the board, implementing a seven-hour workday, and returning all expensive cars being rented by the government, among others.

Business

GDP report is likely to show that recession eased in 2Q

WASHINGTON (AP)—The recession likely eased in the spring, with the U.S. economy no longer in free-fall. Many analysts predict that when the Commerce Department releases its first estimate of second-quarter activity Friday, it will say the economy shrank at a 1.5 percent pace from April though June. If they are correct, it would mark a vast improvement from the 5.9 percent annualized drop recorded over the prior six months—the weakest showing in 50 years. “The recession kind of came in like a lion and is going out like a lamb,” said economist Ken Mayland of ClearView Economics. Less drastic spending cuts by businesses, a resumption of spending by the federal government and an improved trade picture factor into expectations for a better performance. Consumers, though, probably pulled back a bit. Rising unemployment, shrunken nest eggs and lower home values have weighed down their spending. President Barack Obama said Thursday that while he thinks economic activity contracted in the spring, Friday’s report also should show that the United States has “stepped away from the precipice.” Business inventories could be the key swing number in Friday’s report. If companies slash the stockpiles on their shelves more deeply than expected, the report could show the economy suffering from an unexpectedly big contraction. There’s a silver lining to the scenario of rock-bottom inventories, though: It likely would mean that the economy would fare better in the third quarter because businesses would have to ramp up production to satisfy customer demand.

“There will probably be another huge decline in inventories, but it will be setting up the economy for some growth in the second half of this year,” said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has said he thinks the recession will end later this year. And many analysts think the economy will start to grow again—perhaps at around a 1.5 percent pace—in the July-to-September quarter. That would be anemic growth by historical measures, but it would signal that the downturn has ended. Obama’s stimulus package of tax cuts and increased government spending provided some support to second-quarter economic activity. But it will have more impact through the second half of this year and will carry a bigger punch in 2010, economists said.

Even if the recession ends later this year, the job market will remain weak. Companies are expected to keep cutting payroll through the rest of this year, but analysts say monthly job losses likely will continue to narrow. Still, unemployment—now at a 26-year high of 9.5 percent—will keep rising. The Fed says it will top 10 percent at the end of this year. Businesses will be unlikely to boost hiring until they’re certain the recovery has staying power.

Friday’s report on gross domestic product provides a tally of all the goods and services produced within the United States. It is considered the best barometer of the economy’s health. The convergence of a collapse in the housing market, a near shutdown of credit and a financial crisis created what Bernanke and others have called a perfect storm for the economy.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil surges close to \$67 a barrel in volatile week
NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices surged above \$66 a barrel Thursday, rising in lockstep with major global indexes in what has become a very volatile week for energy markets. With regulators meeting in Washington to consider new limits on speculators that some blame for wild swings in oil and gas prices, crude fell 6 percent Wednesday only to rebound by almost that much Thursday. Benchmark crude for September delivery rose \$3.59, or 5.6 percent, to settle at \$66.94 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil, gas futures, heating oil and natural gas contracts all jumped at least 5 percent in afternoon trading.

Disney 3Q profit falls 26 pct, cites tough economy
LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. said Thursday its fiscal third-quarter profit fell 26 percent as slower DVD sales pushed its movie studio into the red while the weakening market for TV ads stabilized. Hurt by the tough global economy, net income for the family entertainment company, which owns Disney theme parks, TV networks ABC and ESPN and the Pixar animation house, sank in the three months ending June 27 to \$954 million, or 51 cents per share. That’s down from \$1.28 billion, or 66 cents per share, in the same period a year ago. Revenue fell 7 percent to \$8.60 billion, from \$9.24 billion, a year ago.

Nation

Cold beer, calm words from Obama, prof and cop

WASHINGTON (AP)—With mugs of beer and calming words, President Barack Obama and the professor and policeman engulfed in a national uproar over race pledged Thursday to move on and try to pull the country with them.

There was no acrimony—nor apology—from any of the three: black Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., white Cambridge, Mass., police Sgt. James Crowley, who had arrested him for disorderly conduct, and Obama, who declared on national TV that the police had “acted stupidly.” But neither Gates nor Crowley backtracked either, agreeing they still had differences.

Said Obama after the highly anticipated, 40-minute chat on the Rose Garden patio: “I have always believed that what brings



AP
President Barack Obama, right, and Vice President Joe Biden, left, have a beer with Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., second from left, and Cambridge, Mass., police Sgt. James Crowley in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington Thursday, July 30, 2009.

us together is stronger than what pulls us apart.”

“I am confident that has happened here tonight, and I am hopeful that all of us are able to draw this positive lesson from this episode,” said the nation’s first black president.

Under the canopy of a magnolia tree in the early evening, Obama joined the other players in a story that had knocked the White House off stride. Vice President Joe Biden joined them for drinks and snacks.

Woman with baby cut from womb claimed pregnancy

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—Friends and family were suspicious when Julie Corey said she went home five hours after giving birth. They noticed the newborn’s umbilical cord was tied with a ribbon, not a clamp. And they were puzzled when she appeared to be breast-feeding the infant girl under a blanket with a bottle nearby.

Then they heard Corey’s former neighbor had been

found dead with a baby cut from her womb.

Corey, 35, of Worcester, Mass., was ordered held on \$2 million bail in New Hampshire on Thursday, one day after being found with a 4-pound baby girl at a homeless shelter.

Appearing in Concord District Court via video from jail, Corey said little during the hearing and did not waive extradition to be

brought back to Massachusetts to face kidnapping charges. Judge Gerard Boyle ordered all police affidavits in the case sealed and scheduled a hearing for Aug. 30.

Corey is accused of kidnapping an infant carried by Darlene Haynes, a 23-year-old mother of three who had been eight months’ pregnant and was found dead Monday in her Worcester apartment.



ACROSS THE NATION

White House reviewing ‘cash for clunkers’ program

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House said Thursday it was reviewing what has turned out to be a wildly popular “cash for clunkers” program amid concerns the \$1 billion budget for

rebates for new auto purchases may have been exhausted in only a week. Transportation Department officials called lawmakers’ offices earlier Thursday to alert them of plans to suspend the program as early as Friday. But a White House official said later the program had not been

suspended and officials there were assessing their options. “We are working tonight to assess the situation facing what is obviously an incredibly popular program,” White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said of the Car Allowance Rebate System. “Auto dealers and consumers should have confidence that all valid CARS transactions that have taken place to date will be honored.” Gibbs said the administration was “evaluating all options” to keep the program funded.

Latest US missile defense test in Hawaii a success

HONOLULU (AP)—The latest U.S. missile defense test, conducted Thursday evening in Hawaii waters, was deemed a success as tensions continue with North Korea over that country’s missile program. A short-range ballistic missile was fired from the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the island of Kauai and then was shot down by a three-stage interceptor missile from a destroyer, the USS Hopper. The test, conducted by the Navy and the Department of Defense’s Missile Defense Agency, marked the 23rd firing by ships equipped with the Aegis ballistic missile defense system. With the latest test, there have been 19 successes, including the shooting down of a dead U.S. spy satellite last year.

World

Police beat mourners in new wave of unrest in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian police fired tear gas and beat protesters to disperse thousands chanting “Neda lives!” Thursday at a memorial for victims of post-election violence held at the gravesite of the woman whose death made her an icon of the pro-reform movement, witnesses said.

The new wave of unrest showed the opposition’s continuing ability to harness anger over the crackdown, and more protests could erupt around the inauguration next week of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose government has been virtually paralyzed by the crisis.

Thursday’s memorial gathering marked the end of the traditional 40-day mourning period for Neda Agha Soltan, a 27-year-old music student who was shot to death June 20. Her dying moments were filmed and circulated widely on the Internet, making her name a rallying cry for the opposition.

“Neda is alive! Ahmadinejad is dead!” chanted protesters, many holding up single

red roses tied with green ribbons, the signature color of the opposition.

Plainclothes forces dispersed the crowd with tear gas and batons—and with chants of “Death to those who are against the supreme leader,” according to witnesses and state television.

The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisal. The government has banned media from covering some events, including Thursday’s memorial.

Demonstrations that drew thousands more later spread to other parts of the capital, Tehran, and more clashes with security forces erupted. Police fired tear gas, shots in the air and paintballs at hundreds of protesters on Vali Asr Street and other major avenues, witnesses said. Protesters set tires and trash cans ablaze in response. There was no word on casualties.

The opposition claims Ahmadinejad’s election victory was a fraud and his government has been virtually paralyzed by the 7-week-old crisis.

The president has come under attack from both the opposition and his own supporters, who were angered by his appointment of a controversial first vice president he was later forced to sack.

The government says 30 people have been killed in the crackdown, though human rights groups say the true number is likely much higher. Hundreds were arrested in the sweeps, including young protesters, politicians and long-time critics of the government.

Soltan and at least 24 others killed in the crackdown are buried at Behesht-e Zahra, the vast cemetery on Tehran’s southern outskirts, according to rights groups tracking the dead.

The site holds great symbolic weight. Many of those killed during the 1979 Islamic revolution are buried there, and the revolution’s leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has a gigantic mausoleum complex nearby. Those killed in Iran’s 1980-1988 war with Iraq are also buried in the cemetery, and families frequently visit the graves.

N. Korea quiet on seized South Korean fishermen

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea was silent Friday about four South Korean fishermen seized off the east coast after their boat strayed into northern waters a day earlier at a time of tension on the divided peninsula.

The 29-ton boat drifted into North Korean waters Thursday after its satellite navigation system apparently malfunctioned. North Korean soldiers towed the vessel to the eastern port of Jangjon, just north of the border, South Korean officials said Friday.

A North Korean official has told Seoul the incident is under investigation but did not provide further details, including the fishermen’s condition. State media carried no reports about the boat.

The two Koreas technically remain at war because their

three-year conflict ended in a truce in 1953, not a peace treaty.

Maritime incidents involving fishing boats and other commercial vessels occur from time to time. While most are resolved amicably, two skirmishes involving military ships twice have sparked deadly naval battles, in 1999 and 2002.

Some analysts said the North could use the fishermen to exert pressure on Seoul amid badly strained ties.

North Korea, censured by the U.N. Security Council for a spate of nuclear and missile tests this year, has custody of a South Korean employee of the two Koreas’ joint industrial park in the border town of Kaesong, in addition to two American journalists sentenced in June to 12 years of hard labor.

Unification Ministry spokesman Chun Hae-sung called Fri-

day on Pyongyang to quickly return the fishermen and their boat on humanitarian grounds, citing Seoul’s fast repatriation of North Korean fishing boats that have drifted into its waters in recent years.

South Korea allowed a North Korean patrol vessel to tow away a North Korean fishing boat that crossed into the countries’ disputed western maritime border on Thursday, according to South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“In similar cases in the past, the North returned fishermen after four to five days of investigation,” said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul’s University of North Korean Studies. “But considering the current tension between the two sides, it is possible for the North to hold them much longer, citing its investigation.”



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

July 31, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Swearing-in of Edwin M. Hofschneider
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. June 11, 2009
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 2. Financial Reports
 3. Legal Counsel's Report
- IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
 1. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
 - a. Comptroller
 2. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
 - a. Loans & Borrowers Requests
 - b. Update on Foreclosed Properties
 3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
 - a. \$140M Bond Reconciliation
 4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Small Business Development Center
 2. Business Incubator
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
- VII. OTHER MATTERS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors



WORLD BRIEFS

Report says 13 million abortions a year in China

BEIJING (AP)—China performs more abortions than any other country in the world, about 13 million a year, mostly for young single women who aren’t using contraception. One expert says the figures show many Chinese now consider the cheap, widely available procedure an acceptable form of birth control. In a rare disclosure of family planning statistics—which are considered state secrets—the official China Daily newspaper reported Thursday that about 13 million surgical abortions are performed in Chinese hospitals and 10 million abortion pills are sold every year. The pills can induce an abortion very early in pregnancy, and are commonly referred to as the morning-after pill. The report said the real number of abortions is believed to be even higher since many are

done outside of hospitals in unregistered rural clinics.

Myanmar court delays Suu Kyi verdict until Aug. 11

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The Myanmar court scheduled to deliver a verdict in the high-profile trial of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Friday it was not yet ready to make a decision and adjourned until Aug. 11, diplomats said. Suu Kyi rose to her feet after the judge’s announcement, turned to foreign diplomats in the courtroom and said jokingly, “I apologize for giving you more work,” a Western diplomat said on condition of anonymity, citing protocol. The 64-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate is charged with violating the terms of her house arrest by harboring an American man who swam to her house uninvited. She faces up to five years in prison.



W.I.A. Saipan 2009 SYETP

Additional Placements



NAME	POSITION	PLACEMENT	WORK SCHEDULE
SANCHEZ, Kayla C.	Administrative Assistant	CUC Water/Wastewater	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BORJA, Kimberly M.	Library Aide	PSS-Kagman High School	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DIONISIO, Julieann	Office Clerk	DCCA-Aging Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Phylli R.	Trades Helper	DPS Division of Roads & Grounds	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Jack R.	Office Clerk	DPW Operation & Maintenance, Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Joshua R.	Warehouseman	DPH-Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AGUON, Mercelia T.	Assistant Coordinator	Kobbler Youth Center	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WILLIAM, Leighiyar M.	HR Assistant	OPM	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WELSON, April P.	Administrative Assistant	DCCA-Office of the Secretary	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BAUTISTA, Sophia A.	Billing Clerk	DPH-Financial Service	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BAUTISTA, Marjorie A.	HR Assistant	OPM	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
FALCON, Christine E.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MAILUYAL, Josiah L.	Forestry Aide	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MICHAEL, Darren J.	Maintenance Trainee	10th Municipal Council	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WILLIAM, Rico M.	Maintenance Assistant	PSS-Hopwood Jr. High	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ROBERT, Mary M.	Office Clerk	10th Municipal Council	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CRESPO, Joshua V.	Kitchen Helper	DPH-Dietary Unit	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DIESTRO, Alvin L.	Shop Parts Clerk	Torres Refrigeration	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
HOSSAIN, Omar M.	Kitchen Helper	DPH-Dietary Unit	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
HOSSAIN, Mohammed A.	Medical Records Clerk	DPH-Medical Records	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VINCENT, Nora A.	Office Clerk	DPH-Medical Records	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VINCENT, Beverly A.	Administrative Assistant	CUC-Power Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BAHILLO, Albert M.	Trades Helper	DPW-Roads & Grounds	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
JETLEY, Patsylynn M.	Clerk	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BASTO, Kevin B.	Recreation Trainee	DCCA-Sports & Recreation	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MARALIT, Jirelle P.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
JOHN, Joylien R.	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALEJO, Ashley V.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TEREGEYO, Ana Marie F.	Personnel Clerk	PSS-HR Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AMIREZ, Christilyn R.	Spa/Floral Arranger	Marianas Resort & Spa	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
FERRER, Reinhold A.	Office Clerk	NMC-Educational Talent Search Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
FERRER, Raissa A.	Customer Service Rep	CUC-Customer Service Dept.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Carinalynn, R.	Preservation Aide	Division of Historic Preservation	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MANCAO, Maryann H.	Accounts Payable Clerk	DPH-Financial Service	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELEON GUERRERO, Nikko J.	Billing Clerk	DPH-Financial Service	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LIZAMA, Aunica C.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WAING, Mary S.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WAING, Marylyn S.	HR Assistant	OPM	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GABI, Nemesianne N.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BARRO, Julius D.	Office Clerk	DPH-Maintenance Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BARRO, Mary D.	Office Clerk	DPH-Family Care Clinic	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MANALO, Jesseray D.	Maintenance Trainee	PSS-Kagman High School	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LACSINA, Jim M.	HR Clerk	Hyatt Regency	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GUEVARRA, Angelo Q.	Stockroom Clerk	Marianas Resort & Spa	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GUEVARRA, Alfredo Q. Jr.	Bellman	Marianas Resort & Spa	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAPILEO, Cypriana T.	GIS Trainee	DLNR-Land Registration	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAPILEO, Nunu T.	Maintenance Assistant	PSS-GTC Elementary School	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ACABEDO, Paul T.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Ritchell A.	Office Clerk	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Richard A.	Forestry Aide	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
IDERBEI, Evander R.	Office Aide	CLI	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MANGTHEG, Christopher	Warehouseman	Ace Hardware-Susupe	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
IGLECIAS, Vince DLC.	Administrative Assistant	CUC-Proc & Supply	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAAINOA, Frienda S.	Office Clerk	DPW-Marpi Scalehouse	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
INDALECIO, Sheryl Lou T.	Office Clerk	DPH-Vital Statistics	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
INDALECIO, Maria Lou T.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAPILEO, Herman DLR.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANTOS, Ramrod S.	Stocker	Joeten Dandan Market	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BUNIAG, Razel F.	Administrative Asst.	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LEON GUERRERO, Anthony L., JR	Receptionist	DYS-Juvenile Detention	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
RABAUIMAN, Yumi K.	Office Assistant	NMC-Admin. Services	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BUENAVISTA, John M.	Project Sys.Info.Clerk	DPW-Oleia	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MARANAN, Herbert S.	Office Clerk	NMC-Career Services	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
RIVERA, Deza A.	Office Clerk	DPW-Marpi Scalehouse	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TUMADA, April C.	Office Clerk	CNMI State BOE	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DACUMA, Angela V.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SARALU, Olyphia N.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MACAHITO, Franklin C.	Office Clerk	NMI-Mayors Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KLEWEI, Courtney T.	Office Clerk	DPW-LowerBase Transfer Station	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MACAHITO, Gary C. Jr.	Office Aide	CDA-Gualo Rai	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
EUGENIO, Carmina O.	Administrative Asst.	PSS-Special Ed.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SIKYANG, Josh C.	Forestry Aide	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ZACHRIAS, Walter L.	Enviromental Aide	DEQ-Gualo Rai	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MAGABO, Mark A.	Mechanic Assistant	CPA-Airport Operations	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Shauna C.	Administrative Asst.	DOF-Proc & Supply Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Victorino C.	Supply Technician	DOF-Proc & Supply Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TENORIO, Kyanna M.	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Ports Police	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TEREGEYO, Adreienne L.	Inspector	DLNR-Quarantine Seaport	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ESPEN, Esael R.	Office Clerk	CPA-ARFF	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
FLORES, Carla S.	Administrative Asst.	DOF-Seaport	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KIKKU, Priscilla G.	Administrative Asst.	CUC-Power Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAPWICH, Jake S.	Maintenance Helper	DPH-Maintenance	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ARRIOLA, Mary Lynn F.	Administrative Asst.	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ABIGANIA, Randall G.	Administrative Asst.	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MINGEFIY, Peter P.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AGLUBAT, John Paul L.	Office Assistant	NMC-Admin. Services	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009

NAME	POSITION	PLACEMENT	WORK SCHEDULE
ATAN, Atan B.	Merchandiser Assistant	D&Q	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
IROG, Allen D.	Supply Technician	DOF-Proc & Supply Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALDAN, Jaynelyn C.	Customer Service Rep	NMC-Bookstore	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANCHEZ, Edgar James	Produce Man	Joeten Susupe Market	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANCHEZ, Michael Vincent	Firefighter Trainee	DPS-Fire Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TAULE, Leoloni O.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LAZARO, Leonard H.	Assistant Coordinator	Kobbler Youth Center	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
IGSAIAR, Viola T.	Office Clerk	PSS-Curriculum & Instr.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Derick D.	Medical Records Clerk	DPH-Medical Records	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BRANA, Daryl P.	Firefighter Trainee	DPS-Fire Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BROWN, Arianna M.	Stocker	Joeten Dandan Market	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PETER, Freeman F.	Customer Service Rep	NMC-Bookstore	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TALION, Denver E.	Recreation Trainee	DCCA-Sports & Rec.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TAITANO, Kaegel T.	Office Clerk	DPH-Immunization	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LISUA, Ambrosio	Gardener	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ELAYDA, Honey A.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ONGILL, Swayzer S.	Fire Fighter Trainee	DPS-Fire Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GAPOR, Glenn A.	Supply Technician	DOF-Proc & Supply, Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DUENAS, Joseph B. Jr.	Bldg.Maint.Asst.	PSS-Kobbler Elementary	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GATCHALIAN, Rickylando M.	Mechanic Assistant	CPA-Operations	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
REUSORA, Desiree A.	Computer Trainee	Judicial Branch	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MASAYOS, Ikluk Tharnton T.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MENDIOLA, Christopher S.	Office Clerk	DYS-Juvenile Detention	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MENDIOLA, Del Eloise S.	Office Clerk	PSS-Curriculum & Instr.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALFOREZA, Severino P. III	Office Clerk	CPA-ARFF	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MANGAHIS, Wilden V.	Clerk	DPH-Laboratory Unit	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CAMACHO, Judy Ann D.	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Joana C.	Office Clerk	PSS-Curriculum & Instr.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Jonathon G.	Forestry Aide	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PRADO, Angela R.	Office Clerk	DPW-LowerBase Scalehouse	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TUDELA, Christina P	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SALAS, Cartrina B.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BORJA, Vanity S.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GREER, Monica L.	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Admin.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CRISOSTOMO, Roberta B.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
REVES, Jan P.	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Ports Police	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CORDERO, Florentina M.	Office Clerk	DPH-Admissions	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MASAYOS, Nizelynn T.	Community Development Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AGUITO, Anne G.	HR Assistant	OPM	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALEGRE, Bryl A.	Office Clerk	CPA-ARFF	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CAMACHO, Kealany S.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MONTON, Donna S.	Office Aide	CDA-Gualo Rai	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VILLONES, Mark G.	Stocker	Joeten Dandan Market	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
RIOS, Zada M.	Customs Trainee	DOF-Seaport	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PUA, Alvander DLG.	Gardener	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PUA, Ann Margaret DLG	Office Clerk	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PUA, Vincent DLG.	Gardener	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MIKEL, Nicky D.	Administrative Assistant	CUC-Procurement & Sup	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VILLOINO, Kate B.	Accounts Clerk	D&Q	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CRUZ, John M.	Maintenance Asst.	CPA-Seaport	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BILLEDO, Aurelio L. Jr.	Merchandiser Asst.	D&Q	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BILLEDO, Junalyn L.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ANGELES, Kristine M.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ARRIOLA, Jayson E.	Mechanic Assistant	CPA-Airport Operation	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PAUL, Lee Ann	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Ports Police	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANTOS, Richard G.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANTOS, Jonathan G.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SACRAMENTO, Rodney J.	Cargo Agent	CTSI	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Tasha DLG.	Administrative Assistant	NMC-CDI	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELEON GUERRERO, Lawrence R.	Office Clerk	DPW-LowerBase Scalehouse	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
QUIZON, Paul R.	Gardener	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LARA, Jemma T	Administrative Assistant	DCCA-Secretary's Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LARA, Alvin T.	Office Clerk	DPW-LowerBase Transfer Station	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LEYCO, Ian M.	Office Clerk	CPA-ARFF	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GONZALES, Lucille A.	Office Clerk	NMC-HR	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GONZALES, Remy A.	Customer Serv. Rep.	NMC-Bookstore	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
JIMENEZ, Shiela B.	Computer Trainee	Judicial Branch	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CADIANG, Melvin D.	Office Clerk	NMC-HR	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CADIANG, Alyssa D.	Office Clerk	NMC-Educational Talent Search Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VITUG, Kimberly M.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BVM Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALDAN, Lewis F.	Mechanic Assistant	CPA-Airport Operations	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALDAN, Lwisa F.	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Ports Police	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALFOREZA, Kristina	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALFOREZA, Krizzelle P.	Office Clerk	NMC-Educational Talent Search Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
REVES, Anastacia O.	Office Clerk	Cong.Ralph Torres	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CASTRO, Audrey C.	Customer Serv. Rep.	NMC-Bookstore	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AIZON, Romeo B.	Clerk	DPH-Nursing Administration	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AIZON, Oym B.	Office Clerk	CMS-Gualo Rai	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ESPAYOS, Matthew	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ESPAYOS, Elbert	Warehouseman	ACE Susupe	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CABRERA, Sylvia E.	Office Clerk	DPH-Vital Statistics	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LITULUMAR, Neil H.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TEREGEYO, Johnavin Rico T.	Community Development Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PETER, Ramona C.	Accounts Receivable	DPH-Garapan	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GINES, Kay I.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TAIMANAO, Jermain	Supply Technician	DPH-Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009

For any information, contact W.I.A. at 664-1708/04/07

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, August 1, 2009

US crucial to Philippine development—Arroyo

By WILLIAM C. MANN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the first Southeast Asian leader to visit the Obama White House, thanked the United States on Thursday for upgrading the Philippine military and providing essential help for the former U.S. colony's advancement in economic and other fields.

Her host, President Barack Obama, praised Arroyo for initiating a reconciliation process in the troubled Mindanao region of the southern Philippines "that we think has the potential to bring peace and stability to a part of the Philippines that has been wracked by unrest for too long."

He spoke of the "strong voice" of the Philippines on Asian issues, such as human rights violations in Myanmar and North Korea's nuclear program.

Obama said he looks forward to visiting Southeast Asia and added that the Philippines will be "the coordinating country in the U.S. relationship with ASEAN." Manila was a founding member of the Association of South-



President Barack Obama smiles during his meeting with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Thursday, July 30, 2009, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

east Asian Nations, the principal strategic organization in the region.

Meeting with reporters after a 45-minute Oval Office meeting, Arroyo also praised what she called the "soft power" of the United States, improving the civilian infrastructure not only in Mindanao but in other Philippine areas.

"We are very thankful for the U.S. as an important ally in helping to pro-

fessionalize our military and making it more effective," Arroyo said. "Just as important, we are thankful to the U.S. for being such a good ally ... working on soft power, by helping us build bridges, roads, schools, not only in Mindanao, but across the nation."

She added: "This assistance of the U.S. has gone a long way in helping us to achieve what we have been able to

achieve in the peace process in Mindanao, in southern Philippines, and also in our fight against terrorism."

Arroyo also praised Obama's position on climate change, which she said is vital for the Philippines, an archipelago of thousands of islands.

"Severe climate change is going to be disastrous for our country," she said. "We are already feeling the weather

pattern changes and the rising seas."

Afterward, Arroyo told Philippine media she was "happy, very pleased" with the meeting, and described Obama as "cordial, warm, welcoming, very impressive" and knowledgeable about the U.S.-Philippine relations.

She said she gave Obama and the first lady pearl cufflinks and a brooch as gifts, and that Obama would visit the Philippines sooner or later.

In Manila, the prominent left-wing group Bayan criticized Obama's meeting with Arroyo saying "it did not result in any clear benefits for the Filipino people."

It also took issue with Obama calling the Philippines "the coordinating country in the U.S. relationship with ASEAN," saying it is not a very flattering designation.

"It speaks of how the U.S. still considers the Philippines its colonial outpost in Asia. The U.S. expects us to parrot its position within the ASEAN," Bayan spokesman Renato Reyes said in a statement. He said the term "coordinating country" makes the Philippines "America's glorified errand boy in the region. We're considered the U.S. surrogate in Southeast Asia."

Usapang OFW live at 6pm today over DZMM

Filipinos in the CNMI will be able to listen to a live broadcast of DZMM's special feature about overseas workers, titled "Usapang OFW: A Leader's Forum."

The program will air from 6pm to

8pm today, Aug. 1 (4pm-6pm in the Philippines) over DZMM Teleradyo and on the Internet via www.netvision.com.ph.

This special presentation is being organized by the Blas F. Ople Policy

Center, in partnership with ABS-CBN. It will be hosted by Henry Omega Diaz, Susan "Toots" Ople and Jasmine Romero.

The program will provide a venue for the 2010 presidential aspirants to

talk about their platforms for the Filipino migrant workers before an audience composed mainly of OFWs.

Among those who confirmed their attendance to the program are Senators Chiz Escudero, Loren Legarda,

Mar Roxas and Gov. Ed Panlilio.

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan urges the Filipino community to listen or watch the program in their respective homes. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

Konsulado bukas tuwing linggo ng Agosto para sa OAV registration

Ang Konsulado Panglahat ng Pilipinas sa Saipan ay magbubukas sa publiko mula alas dyes ng umaga hanggang alas tres ng hapon (10am-3pm) tuwing linggo sa Agosto para mabigyan ng pagkakataong magparehistro ang mga Pilipinong hindi pa rehistrado bilang Overseas Absentee Voter (OAV). Ang pagbukas ng Linggo bilang dagdag sa mga araw ng pagparehistro ay isang pagbibigay daan para sa mga Pilipinong hindi makapunta sa mga araw ng Lunes haggang Byernes

dahil sa kani-kanilang nga trabaho.

Sa mga Pilipinong nais magparehistro, kayo ay maaring tumuloy sa 5th floor ng Marianas Business Plaza sa Susupe dala ang inyong pasaporte bilang katibayan ng inyong katauhan. Inaanyayahan po ang lahat na magparehistro bilang Overseas Absentee Voter upang maipahayag ang inyong ninanais sa darating na halalan sa 2010. Sa may mga katanungan tungkol sa OAV, maari po kayong tumawag sa telepono 234-1848/50/51. (PR)

OFW remittances seen to exceed P17B in '09

MANILA, Philippines—Despite the global financial crisis, remittances from overseas Filipino workers may surpass \$17 billion mark this year, Labor Secretary Mariano Roque said.

In a statement Thursday, Roque said the remittances showed that there was no let up in the hiring of OFWs.

Citing a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas report, Roque said remittances reached \$6.98 billion in the first five months of

2009, a 2.8-percent growth from the same period last year.

Subsequently, preliminary figures from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) indicated that the growth trend had sustained, as the total deployment of OFWs grew by another 27.3 percent to 283,348 in the first two months of 2009, compared to the same period in 2008, Roque said. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

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LABOR FRONT

Deadlines, procedures for transfer

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: What are the Department of Labor's deadlines for an alien worker requesting administrative transfer to a new employer?

A: The alien worker must file an Employer Intent Form within 30 days of the date on the registration form. According to Labor's procedures, failure to file within 30 days may result in the denial of the transfer. Any denial of permission to transfer may be appealed within 15 days by filing a written notice of appeal with the Labor Administrative Hearing Office.

Q: If an alien worker is given time to seek a new employer, what notice he or she should check at Labor while the transfer process is ongoing?

A: Notices with respect to transfers currently being processed will be posted on the bulletin boards at Labor. The Regulations state that it is the responsibility of the guest worker to come to Labor to check notices at least once a week while the transfer process is ongoing.

It is the responsibility of the alien worker to locate an employer willing to hire him or her under a one-year contract.

Once a foreign national worker has located an employer, the worker should file the Employer Intent Form with La-

bor Employment Services as soon as possible. In order for the administrative transfer process to go forward, the completed and signed Employer Intent Form must have been submitted to Labor Employment Services.

Q: What will happen if an employer decides to hire a U.S. citizen for a job that is being applied for by an alien worker?

A: According to the regulations, at any time prior to Labor's order granting an alien worker permission to transfer, the Labor Employment Services may locate a U.S. citizen or permanent resident who wishes to apply for a job described on an Employer Intent Form and make a referral. A U.S. citizen or permanent resident may also see the job listed on Labor's website and apply. If that happens, and the employer decides to hire the U.S. citizen, the alien worker will be given another opportunity to register to find another employer. Employers may hire both the U.S. citizen and the alien worker without further posting or advertising of the job vacancy announcement.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.

Philippine troops capture suspected bomber

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Government troops captured Thursday a Muslim militant accused of involvement in a series of bombings and an attack on a Christian community in the southern Philippines, officials said.

Army troops and police arrested Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, in a

farm house in Maasim township in southern Sarangani province, and seized weapons and bomb-making equipment, regional army commander Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Mapagu said.

The troops had a warrant for Maguid's arrest for suspected murder, arson and robbery, related to his alleged involvement in deadly attacks by Muslim guer-

rillas in Maasim, the army said. They are now hunting for other rebels implicated in the attacks.

That violence followed the collapse of peace talks between the rebels and the government in August 2008 after the Supreme Court threw out a preliminary deal to expand Muslim autonomy in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic

nation. The court said the deal was unconstitutional.

Maguid allegedly masterminded a grenade attack in a crowded plaza that killed a villager and wounded 32 others last month in Maasim, a largely Christian town about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) south of Manila, the army said. He is also accused in bombings in two other

Sarangani towns, the army said.

The government and rebels recently called a truce. Negotiators from the two sides met in Malaysia this week to prepare for a resumption of formal negotiations they hope will allow some 300,000 villagers displaced by fighting to return home.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu confirmed that Maguid is a

Moro Islamic Liberation Front member but said he could not speculate whether the accusations against him were true.

Kabalu said such arrests could discourage some rebels from backing efforts to revive the peace talks. "How can we convince our men that there is really peace on the ground if these arrests go on?" he said.



CONJOINED TWINS

A nurses touches conjoined twins temporarily named "Girl Arciaga" as she monitors their condition, Wednesday July 29, 2009, at the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila, Philippines. The conjoined twins were born by caesarian section Tuesday night, the first such kind of birth in the hospital's history.

AP

'No one has been prayed for as much as Cory'

By **FE ZAMORA, TINA SANTOS, ALLISON LOPEZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"No one in this country has ever been prayed for to live long as much as former President Corazon Aquino," said Fr. Jerry Orbos in his homily at the Mass he officiated at the Manila City Hall at noon Thursday.

At Edsa Shrine, Bishop Teodoro Bacani said Thursday night during Mass to start a 40-hour vigil for the ailing democracy icon that Aquino's legacy is that she showed us a leader who did not know how to "cheat, lie or steal."

"Wala nga syang alam (She didn't really know)," Bacani said, after recalling Aquino's response to the 1986 snap presidential election when then dictator Ferdinand Marcos said that his challenger could not be president because she was just a mere housewife, "walang alam."

"She governed and she led. And now even when she's no longer in government, she continues to lead," Bacani said.

"Let us pray that all those who govern will continue to lead, even when they are no longer in government," Bacani said.

Aquino's brother, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, and sister-in-law, Maur Aquino-Lichauco, joined the Mass organized by the Spirit of Edsa Foundation.

The 76-year-old Aquino, who

is suffering from stage 4 colon cancer, has been confined at the Makati Medical Center since June 25. She was diagnosed with cancer in March last year.

Leaders of the Catholic Church sought to comfort the family of Aquino by expressing the Filipino's eternal gratitude to her role in restoring democracy after the 20-year Marcos rule.

"We join the Filipino people in thanking her for the freedom and democracy that she helped bring back to the country in 1986," Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, wrote Aquino's only son, Sen. Benigno "Noy" Aquino III.

Forever grateful

"The country will forever be grateful for the sacrifices she and her husband, Ninoy, have offered in response to the dream and challenge that our country is worth dying for," the prelate said.

The Catholic Church hierarchy has expressed its solidarity with the rest of the country in praying for Aquino.

"I wish to assure you that we are continuing to remember her in our prayers together with the people of the Philippines. Together we pray with her. God's will be done," Lagdameo wrote Senator Aquino.

On Wednesday, the Catholic Educational Association of

the Philippines (CEAP) said its 1,200-member schools would offer daily Masses for the former president.

Aside from offering prayers and Masses, the CEAP said its member-schools would display symbolic yellow ribbons in support of Aquino, while students would be made to understand her role in consolidating the political opposition against Marcos.

Prayers continue to be said for Aquino at the Manila City Hall and Greenbelt chapel in Makati.

Extended

The original week-long daily healing Masses organized by the Manila government has been extended. Mayor Alfredo Lim ordered the extension, saying that "prayers must constantly be offered for the ultimate recovery" of Aquino.

"No one has been prayed over for quite a long time as much as her," Orbos added. "This is a lesson for all of us from Tita Cory. Trust in God no matter what happens. And hopefully, you live long and people would want you to live long, so that you could still continue to work for people in Jesus' name."

Lim remains optimistic that his former boss would recover from her ailment. He was appointed head of the National Bureau of Investigation during Aquino's presidency.

Swine flu, crisis couldn't keep tourists away

By **KRISTINE L. ALAVE**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The influenza A(H1N1) scare and the global financial crisis have had little adverse effect on local tourism as close to four million visitors trooped to the country's tourist destinations in the first half of the year, the Department of Tourism (DoT) said Thursday.

The DoT's first semester report said the 3.89 million tourists from January to June represented a 16.5-percent improvement over the same period last year.

Of the number, over 808,000 were foreign tourists. They were up from the 760,000 foreigners who visited the Philippines in the first semester of 2008.

The number of domestic tourists so far increased by 20

percent to 2.96 million, the DoT report said.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano in the report said there was a drop in the number of foreign arrivals from certain markets because of the global financial downturn, but the overall picture bucked expectations.

The rise in tourist traffic, he said, could be attributed to the changing lifestyles of Filipinos.

"Likewise, the changing lifestyles and travel patterns of more Filipinos to spend their Holy Week, long weekends, and summer and holiday vacations in the various tourist areas in the country boosted tourist flow," he said.

"Foreign arrivals also increased by 6 percent in the first half of the year despite a decrease of 6 percent in visitors to East Asia and the Pacific," he said.

Durano was optimistic the

growth would continue the rest of the year.

"As tourism facilities and products continue to expand, the DoT anticipates greater growth in tourist arrivals in key destinations towards the end of 2009," he said.

The province of Camarines Sur, which is known for its beaches and surfing, was the top gainer. The province received 902,000 local and foreign visitors during the first semester, the DoT report said.

"The provincial government of Camarines Sur's investment in a wake-boarding tourism product stimulated visitor volume while bolstering demand for more accommodations, tour services and transportation," the report said.

Cebu was the second most visited destination, with 830,000 tourists.

Arroyo orders drug prices lowered

By **TERESA CERAJANO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president, bowing to pressure to reduce the cost of critical medicines, has slashed the price of five essential drugs by half, after pharmaceutical manufacturers ignored an appeal to do so voluntarily.

The hugely popular move is supposed to make anti-hypertension and anti-cholesterol drugs as well as antibiotics more affordable to the country's poor, but it has also alarmed the drug industry, with U.S. pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. saying in a statement Tuesday it was disappointed.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Monday signed an executive order cutting the costs by 50 percent for five medicines. It takes effect Aug. 15, her office reported.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the government was left with no alternative after drug companies offered to cut prices for only 16 of the 21 medicines the government had deemed essential but "criminally priced."

"Call it an iron-fisted approach, but we had no choice," Duque said. "Other firms simply refused to bring down prices."

The 21 branded medicines include some 70-80 variants and dosage strengths. A government study found that the 21 were sold in the Philippines for four

to five times the price fetched in other countries, Duque said.

Robert So, the Health Department's pharmaceutical management program chief, said the government was drafting a separate administrative order that would penalize drug companies if they do not comply with their volunteered price cuts.

Pfizer said it was disappointed, and the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines, which includes major drug companies, regretted the decision to set price controls "because it believes the same result could be achieved through free-market competition."

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Two deaths are reported in Mindanao floods

By CARLO AGAMON, CHARLIE SEÑASE
INQUIRER MINDANAO

COTABATO CITY, Philippines—At least two persons, including an old woman, have died in floods caused by overflowing rivers following a week of intermittent rains in parts of Central Mindanao, the authorities reported Friday.

Damage to crops in North Cotabato province alone has been estimated at over P500 million.

Ghia Lumbao, 87, who could hardly walk, reportedly died from the cold when flood waters crept into her house in the village of Bulalo in the neighboring town of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, on Thursday.

Sam Mundas, Cotabato City disaster

coordinator, said another resident of Sultan Kudarat, Jojo Suicano, was swept by a swollen river on Thursday and has been presumed dead because of the heavily silted river's strong current.

Sultan Kudarat Mayor Shajida Biru-ar-Mastura said the overflow of Simuay and Pulangi rivers forced hundreds of residents to evacuate to higher ground.

Emergency assistance has been extended by the local government, said Mastura, who promised "to continue with the humanitarian work for as long as the relief supplies allow."

Classes have been suspended in towns badly affected by the floods.

Mastura said classes were suspended to keep school children safe from water-borne diseases.

In North Cotabato, Governor Jesus Sacdalan estimated the estimated damage to crops and infrastructure at more than P500 million.

He said the damage consisted largely of P300 million worth of ready-to-harvest rice that was laid to waste and more than P200 million worth of corn crops similarly destroyed.

Sacdalan said he has sought the help of the agriculture department to procure some 6,000 bags of palay and corn seeds which will be paid in half by the provincial government.

He also asked Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane to help rehabilitate damaged irrigation dikes, farm-to-market roads and other gov-

ernment infrastructure.

North Cotabato, which was recently been declared under a state of calamity, is in need of national and international assistance to augment its limited resources, said Vice Gov-

ernor Emmanuel Piñol.

Piñol identified the worst-hit towns as Pigcawayan, Pikit, Libungan, Alamada, Midsayap, Aleosan, Banisilan, Kabacan, Mlang, and the two Maguindanao towns of Pagalungan and Montawal.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

Untangling finances when marriage ends

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Q : My husband and I are in the process of filing for legal separation. Although we do not own any real estate property together, we do have joint bank accounts. I also have a supplementary credit card, with him as principal cardholder. Other than that, we don't have other assets or accounts that are linked to each other as far as I know. What must we do?—Maricar

A : When a marriage ends, it is necessary to untangle financial lives as well. With legal separation and also for an annulment, you are in effect declaring that you want to live separate lives; your finances must be separated as well.

Although it may be difficult, strive to keep an open communication line with your former spouse. Come to an agreement regarding what to do with your investments, accounts, and debit and credit cards, among others.

According to Use Credit Wisely, a publication of Citibank, "A legal separation does not change your agreements with creditors. You could be liable for marital debts even if a court-approved decree orders your former spouse to pay them."

Thus it is wise to still be in touch with your spouse to check if he has paid all your marital debts. If not, work out an arrangement or even pay off the loan yourself so your credit history will not be affected.

Establishing your credit history is now essential since you will be on your own. Protect your credit. Use Credit Wisely lists down the following steps you should take as you and your former spouse undergo legal proceedings:

1. List all credit accounts. These include loans and credit card accounts. Determine the current balances of these accounts.

2. Make your required payments. See to it that credit card loans and other loans are paid before their due date. "Late payments and other problems may become part of your credit history. Your future ability to obtain credit could be affected and cause problems later on," advise the authors of Use Credit Wisely.

3. Contact your creditors. Let them know that you are undergoing changes in your personal lives, and need to separate accounts.

4. Untangle your marital credit. With your former spouse, close a joint account and request that your

account as supplementary credit card holder be closed as well.

5. Establish independent credit. Apply for your own bank account and credit card. The bank will review your individual assets, income and credit history in determining the appropriate action regarding your credit card application. Don't be discouraged if your credit limit may be low at first. As you establish yourself as an independent and reliable credit customer, you may be given a higher credit limit later on.

Once you have your own credit card and bank account, maintain good credit by doing the following:

1. Pay your bill on time. Late fees will just add to the cost of your borrowing, and will affect your credit history.

2. Pay at least the minimum amount due. If you can pay in full or pay an amount higher than the minimum amount due, do so. If funds are tight, aim to at least meet the minimum amount due. Bear in mind, though, that interest will be charged on the unpaid balance rolled over.

3. Don't overextend yourself. Charge only purchases you can afford to pay. Be as careful with credit as with cash. Experts say no more than 20 percent of your monthly take-home pay (excluding rent and mortgage) should go into paying debts, including loan payments and credit card payments.

4. Spend as you earn. Don't spend (by charging today) what you have yet to earn in the future.

5. Notify creditors of your new address and phone number when you move. This will ensure the prompt delivery of bills and will help you meet your debt payments on time. If you don't receive the bill on time, call the credit card company to get your balance and due date as you are not excused from making the required payment. Better yet, sign up for electronic statements to be sent to your e-mail address so you will be sure to receive all your bills way before the due date.

Having your own financial accounts demands responsibility. Take care to protect your credit.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net or comment through our personal finance blog called MoneySmarts.

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MOCK JAIL

Protesters display portraits of Myanmar opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi behind a mock jail during a protest at the Myanmar Embassy at Manila's financial district of Makati city Friday July 31, 2009 in the Philippines. The Myanmar court scheduled to deliver a verdict in the high-profile trial of Aung San Suu Kyi said Friday it was not yet ready to make a decision and adjourned until Aug.11, diplomats said.

AP

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

2 guards injured by landmine blast

KIDAPAWAN CITY, Philippines—Two security guards were wounded when a landmine believed by the authorities to have been planted by the New People's Army between the towns of Tulunan and M'lang in North Cotabato wet off on Thursday. M'lang Mayor Joseito Piñol said the victims, Jojo Ondap and Daniel Quilataon, worked as security guards at the Pacheco Rubber Buying Station, the largest rubber-buying outfit in North Cotabato. Piñol said the victims were on their way to Makilala town aboard a truck when suspected NPA rebels fired at them. Moments later, a landmine exploded, wounding the security guards. Authorities recovered another landmine on the roadside. A villager who asked not to be identified told Piñol that the rebels were displeased by the low price the company paid for local farmers' latex produce. (*Inquirer Mindanao*)

2 miners in Isabela found dead in tunnel

SANTIAGO CITY, Isabela—Two small-scale gold miners have been found dead inside a 16-meter tunnel in the village of Camarao in nearby Cordon town, police said Friday. Chief Inspector Genato Birung, Cordon police chief, identified the fatalities as Tito Anafer Jr., 46, of Banaue, Ifugao; and Eleno May-ag, 36, of Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya. Birung told the Philippine Daily Inquirer in a telephone interview that the bodies were taken Thursday

night to Funeraria Carbonel in Cordon for autopsy. "They probably died due to gas poisoning... from the water pump they brought inside the 16-meter-deep tunnel," he said. Birung said the miners could have died a day before their bodies were found at 5:30 p.m. Thursday by the police and 10 volunteers. (*Inquirer Northern Luzon*)

Muslim businessman seized in Marawi City

MANILA, Philippines—A Muslim businessman who was on his way to a mosque for morning prayers was abducted by three armed men in Marawi City early Thursday morning, police said. Omar Aman Alomin, 36, was forced by the suspects inside a tricycle at around 4:30 a.m. and brought to an unknown location, a report from Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao police said Friday. He was heading to the Abubakar Mosque in the village of West Marinaut to perform morning prayers when he was seized. Authorities were investigating the incident. (*INQUIRER.net*)

High Court justices raise poll automation doubts

MANILA, Philippines—Supreme Court justices have expressed some doubt about the reliability of the automated election system that a foreign company would be supplying for the 2010 first-ever computerized election in the country. In a nine-and-a-half-hour long hearing that lasted until almost midnight on Wednesday, the

justices questioned the track record of Smartmatic, the foreign partner in the Smartmatic TIM consortium that won the P7.2-billion poll automation contract with the Commission on Elections. They also questioned the reliability of the Smartmatic machines in the absence of a pilot test in actual elections and in light of an adverse comment from the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines, which was acting as amicus curiae (friend of the court). (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

2 killed in Antipolo mudslide

MANILA, Philippines—A 68-year-old woman and her young granddaughter were killed when a hillside above their house collapsed on them early Friday in Antipolo City, the police said. Conchita Rosimo and four-year-old Edralyn Rosimo were buried alive in the rubble of the slide, which was apparently triggered by a downpour and swallowed up a portion of their house in the village of San Isidro. Edralyn's mother, Rose, who was reportedly pregnant, was injured and rushed by neighbors to a hospital, where she was in stable condition, the police said. Police Officer 2 Jeron Arellano said the bodies of the victims, who likely died upon impact, were recovered before dawn. The investigator said a combination of trauma and suffocation could have caused their deaths, although autopsies would have to confirm this. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Estrada to start comeback movie with Ai-ai

By FE ZAMORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—After a 22-year break from the movies, former President Joseph Estrada returned to acting on Wednesday, shooting a love scene with comedienne Ai-ai de las Alas.

“Our first scene is a bed scene,” Estrada said on Tuesday night, chuckling.

The first day of shooting will be in San Juan City, Estrada’s bailiwick and where his son, JV (short for Joseph Victor), is the mayor.

Tentatively titled “Ang Tanging Ama” (Your Only Dad), the movie is patterned after the Hollywood family comedy “Father of the Bride,” which starred Steve Martin.

Aling Dionisia

De las Alas will play Estrada’s wife, while Toni Gonzaga plays the role of their daughter.

Gonzaga’s love interest will be played by Sam Milby, who will have Aling Dionisia, mother of boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, playing the role of Milby’s mother.

The comedy is about a minibus driver trying to deal with his daughter’s plans to marry her Filipino-American boyfriend, according to Estrada’s spokesperson Margaux Salcedo.

“He really thinks that the poor, who are already suffering, should not be made to cry some more in the movies,” Salcedo said. “He wants to make them happy, even if only briefly.”

In this July 26, 2009, file photo former Philippine President and action movie star Joseph Estrada waves to fans as he attends a healing mass for cancer-stricken former President Corazon Aquino in Manila, Philippines.

AP



Underdog

Estrada, 72, built his political career as a champion of the poor, largely based on his movie roles as an underdog. He rose from town mayor to senator to vice president before winning the presidency.

He stepped down amid massive

protests in 2001 after serving only half of his six-year term. He was convicted of “plunder” in September 2007 but was immediately granted a pardon by his successor, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Estrada has said that he will consider running for president again next year

and that the constitutional ban on a second term does not apply to him.

Love scenes private

In past interviews, Estrada had expressed excitement about teaming up with De las Alas, whom he described as a “blockbuster comedienne.”

“It’s an honor to be in a movie with her,” Estrada said.

Since he and De las Alas will be playing husband and wife, there will be love scenes, according to Estrada.

“But the love scenes of our parents were always private, di ba?” he told the Inquirer with a laugh.

Should there be any bed scenes, “it’s really for family entertainment,” Estrada said, laughing.

He said he decided to make a movie because he needed to. “I have to work, that’s why I have to do a movie,” he said.

‘Comeback film’

With his trademark mustache, pompadour and wristband, Estrada is a Filipino movie Hall-of-Famer, having starred in more than 100 films.

Estrada’s last movie, “Sa Kuko ng Agila (In the Eagle’s Claws)” —made in 1989 while he was a senator —portrays him as another minibus driver who opposes US military bases in the Philippines.

“This is like his comeback film,” Salcedo said of the new project. “He hasn’t done a movie in so long.”

Salcedo said Estrada had scheduled at least one month for the shooting of his comeback movie. “But it will not be a daily thing, so he will have time for other activities,” she said.

His latest movie will be shown in September or October. He said his talent fee for the movie would be donated to charity.

‘Harry Potter’ franchise hits a billion pesos

MANILA, Philippines—The Harry Potter franchise has now crossed the elite P1-billion milestone (P1,012,396,258) as the series’ sixth installment, “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince” grossed a wicked P157.59 million as of July 26 or after only 12 days of release in the Philippines.

This was announced Thursday by Francis Soliven, general manager of Warner Bros. (F.E.), Inc., which dis-

tributed the film locally.

The Harry Potter franchise becomes the first movie series to collectively breach the P1-billion ceiling in gross sales in the Philippines, besting other blockbusters like “Spider Man”, “Star Wars”, “The Lord of the Rings”, “Pirates of the Caribbean” and “James Bond”. “This is another major accomplishment for the Harry Potter franchise and Warner Bros.,” said Soliven

in making the announcement.

“The public’s fascination with Harry, Ron and Hermione and their magical adventures is unprecedented and will continue to endure for ages to come,” he said.

Still playing across the Philippines, “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince” is distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, a Warner Entertainment Company. (*Inquirer*)

Ogie is singer in ex-wife Michelle’s wedding

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Ogie Alcasid is all praises for Judy Ann Santos, his leading lady in Regal Films’ 50th anniversary offering, “OMG (Oh My Girl).”

“Juday is genuinely kind even at work,” Ogie gushes. “Kahit ngarag kami, pleasant pa rin siya.”

Did he give her marital advice? “I don’t think she needs advice at this point na honeymoon stage pa sila ni Ryan,” he says.

Ogie has no qualms about dressing up like a woman again for his role in “OMG,” which is dubbed as the “Laugh Story of the Year.” “My kids enjoy watching me in drag,” he says. “I’ve always been their clown.” He plays Juday’s childhood friend who disguises himself as her personal assistant so that they can rekindle their friendship.

If there’s one friend Ogie treasures, it’s his ex-wife Michelle Van Eimeren. He’s all set to sing at Michelle and her

Australian fiancé’s wedding. “My kids want me to sing Jason Mraz’s ‘I’m Yours,’” he says.

Two heartthrobs

Eugene Domingo is ecstatic about being paired with Dingdong Dantes in “Kimmy Dora,” which is produced by Piolo Pascual.

“Dong changed his hair, added up a little character to the face that made him look nerdy and far from being the heartthrob that he is,” she said.

Hilarious moment with Piolo? “There’s a big party scene with surprise stars playing cameo roles and one of them is PJ himself!”

What’s the difference between Dong and PJ? “Dong seems to be interested in pursuing his interest as a director while Piolo is inclined to becoming one of the most successful producers of films and concerts.

As far as acting is concerned, Piolo easily looses control of his laughter when something gets really odd or

funny. Dong’s willingness to try a new look proves his versatility, making him more interesting as a thespian.

No regrets

Valerie Concepcion has no regrets about having a love child, Fiona, at 16.

“It changed my outlook in life,” she says. “What hurts me is when people brand me as malandi just because I got preggy at a young age. I was blindly in love, that’s why I gave my heart and soul ...”

She no longer has any contact with the father of Fiona. “Someday, I’d want her also to meet her dad but for now ‘di naman niya hinahanap. She doesn’t feel na may kulang kasi kumpleto naman ang love that my parents and I show her.”

Isn’t she ready to find a second dad for Fiona? “I miss the feeling of being crazy in love but I don’t want to force it,” she replies. “Di pa talaga tumitibok uli ang puso ko the same way it did when I fell for Fiona’s dad.”

‘Hubad’ a success in NY Asian Film Festival

By MARCONI CALINDAS
CORRESPONDENT

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Another feather to the nation’s ever growing cap in the film industry is the Filipino film “Hubad,” which was selected among this year’s top 10 narrative feature films at the Asian American International Film Festival in New York City.

The film was well received during its one-night run on July 24 at the Chelsea Cinemas in New York City.

The film was also nominated for the Best Emerging Director for a Narrative Feature in the festival. The plum went to Chinese director Nian Liu for her film, *Li Tong*.

Directors Mark Gary and Denisa Reyes, together with producer Beatrice Homann, earlier this month invited the media, film groups and close friends in San Francisco for a viewing a week before the New York premiere.

The film’s special two-hour screening was held at the Jazz Heritage Center in San Francisco City.

Reyes said she was elated as well as honored for the film to be selected and be shown in the longest running film festival in the U.S. that showcases films created by artists of Asian descent and about the Asian community.

Reyes said the film is special as it was conceived from “the swell of enthusiasm that followed the play version of ‘Hubad’ in the Philippines that revealed an audience fascination for artistic interpretation of societal taboos.”

The film centers on a heterosexual

couple that lives in a heavily Roman Catholic country where popular culture is grounded in sexual puns and parodies. According to the directors, “Hubad” addresses the prohibitive topic of eroticism in marital relationship. It also alluded to the ambiguities of Filipino values and conventions.

Veteran actor and multi-awarded director Peque Gallaga, Irma Adlawan, Noni Buencamino, Audie Gemora, Madeleine Nicolas and Sharmaine Buencamino complete the ensemble cast. The characters in the film deal with the challenges they face when funding dries up for their play of the same title, “Hubad,” due to its sexually explicit theme.

The film also “taps further into the world of theater” and the “dynamics between the lead stage actors and how their approach to character portrayals can blur the lines between performance and real life.”

Gary and Reyes told the audience the issues tackled in the film remain an ordeal within the theater and the film industry in the Philippines, which is Asia’s largest Catholic nation.

“Hubad” is produced by samasamaGroup Production with the support of the Philippine National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Collaborative Opportunities for Raising Empowerment, IndioBravo, and NAAAP-NY, while Pan Asian Repertory sponsored the film showing in New York.

The film is set to hit Manila’s big screen soon. Special preview of the film is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch/>

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Pussyfooting

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ninth State of the Nation Address was unremarkable in many ways, particularly in terms of being self-congratulatory throughout while dismissive of critics to the point of crass hostility. Tooting one's own horn and castigating the opposition are normal features of the State of the Nation Address. The President merely deviated from the example of her predecessors in terms of degree—a question as much of personal preferences in taste as it was a reflection of what she considered politically expedient.

The President hewed back to an earlier age in viewing Congress as her primary audience. Rhetorical—that is, essentially cosmetic—concessions were made to the public, but her fundamental concern was putting rivals, including her potential successors, in their place. No one should have any doubt, after Monday's performance, that she believes that place is one thoroughly subordinate to her.

She did this by means of trumpeting her achievements and more significantly deviating from the post-Edsa tradition established by President Corazon Aquino of making the last SONA of her term not merely a valedictory address, but also the formal start of the transition period from one administration to the next. Presidents Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos made such commitments in their final SONAs and categorically stated that they would hand over office to whoever was their duly-elected successor come June 30 of the following year. To borrow a word revived by Ms Arroyo, instead of following this democratic precedent, she pussyfooted around the question of handing over power on June 30, 2010.

What she didn't pussyfoot around was the question of a transition. There will be none. "There is much to do as head of state, to the very last day," she declared.

The President may have virtuously declared that she is more interested in governance than politics, but her determination to cling, limpet-like, to every single one of her presidential prerogatives makes her a compleat politician. Again, her apologists might object that every president is a politician, too, but there comes a time—specifically, the final months of a president's term—when the politician must at least attempt to transform into a statesman.

This, the President refuses to do. She remains in campaign mode, demonstrating every indication that she intends to maintain a vise-like grip on her administration coalition and compete with her potential successors.

The result of the President's pussyfooting around the question of her leaving office—not only when, but under what circumstances—will guarantee more politics, not less. It ensures that whatever governance takes place will be firmly subordinated to politicking since she will be aggressively ensuring that everyone continues kowtowing to her until high noon of June 30, 2010, not least because she refuses to commit to a specific role beyond that hour.

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State of war

The rumor I've heard is that Malacañang started the rumor. That rumor was that Cory died last Friday, a rumor that spread faster than Hayden Kho's videos that day.

Even the British Embassy was duped into believing it and issuing a statement condoling with the family and the Filipino nation. Which sparked some idiotic reactions, not least from Dante Jimenez, the fellow who once proclaimed himself anti-crime only to end up being party to it, who demanded that whoever was responsible for the statement be made persona non grata.

For what? For being victimized in the same way as Cory's former chief legal adviser, Adolph Azcuna? For spontaneously combusting into lamentation and commiserating with the host nation for its immeasurable loss? That is to unduly hasten people to their graves? If so, then we should condole every day with Arroyo's family. Maybe that will do the trick. Some people ought to recover from their sicknesses, others ought to be shot.

But to go back: The rumor I heard is that Malacañang sparked the rumor to see how the public would react to Cory's demise. Is it believable? I don't know, though stranger things have happened in this country. But whether true or not, I believe how the public will react to Cory's demise is not farthest from their minds. I believe it is the one thing that terrifies them. I believe it is the one thing that drives them out of their freaking minds.

The one thing Arroyo has never allowed since she took power, and especially since she wrested it by telling Garci she wanted to win by a million votes over her nearest rival, is people massing in the streets in numbers that could turn into another Edsa. Cops and soldiers have variously: prevented groups from gathering at the Edsa Shrine, headed off leftists groups to prevent them from swelling the ranks of those gathered at the Ninoy statue (easy enough in light of those groups advertising themselves with sanguine flags and even more sanguine slogans while marching down Edsa), scuttled rallies, imposed curfews on them (7 p.m. or thereabouts), floated rumors about bombings and other acts of

'Bad words'

When President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo alluded to a critic in last Monday's State of the Nation Address and exhorted him not to say "bad words in public," it drew laughter and applause from the gallery.

This reminded me of Sen. Mar Roxas who shouted the "P" word during an anti-Charter change rally in Makati a few weeks ago. It also reminded me of many hard-hitting columns by Ramon Tulfo who is polite enough to scramble his bad words into symbols like ?@#%&*!?! But sometimes Tulfo pushes the limits by letting us fill in the blanks and mentally say the unmentionable. Tulfo's younger brother has a radio program where he berates abusive police and public officials on the phone with strong language, but he always stops short of using expletives or "bad words."

Although I was born too late to have been under Rolando S. Tinio at the Ateneo de Manila University, I still hear stories about his legendary temper, on and off-stage, when he threw tantrums or objects (like a bakya) at an actor or audience that displeased him. In the classroom, Tinio terrorized students with his genius and sharp tongue. According to Ateneo legend, he was one of the few who got away with using "bad words" in class.

Early in his teaching career, Danton Remoto tried to copy Tinio's pedagogical method and was hastily summoned by the uneasy department chairperson who began by saying, "I heard, Mr. Remoto, that you have been using four-letter words in class." Danton quickly owned up saying, "Of course I use four-letter words in class. Which one did you have in mind—'love'?" That was the end of conversation.

The "P" word is something we hear every day. My father used to use it like an exclamation mark. As far as I can remember, he never used the word in anger and so it caused no offense. But these days my father has to watch his tongue, fearful that his five-year-old grandson might pick it up and use it

violence in the rallies, and intimidated by coming out in the streets in full combat gear.

The ploy has been successful enough thus far. No rally has ever reached the proportion of Edsa I and II. Not the rallies in 2005 in the wake of "Hello, Garci" (which Malacañang met with "calibrated preemptive response"), not Danny Lim's "withdrawal of support" (which gave Malacañang the excuse to experiment with a state-of-emergency declaration), not the huge rally to protest NBN, which never snowballed, thanks to the ploys above.

But what happens if, heaven forbid, something should happen to Cory?

If the vigil is held at the Manila Cathedral, the headaches for Malacañang will be epic. In the first place that is Alfredo Lim territory. Lim, of course, is the tough-as-nails mayor of Manila, the former tough-as-nails NBI director, and the former tough-as-nails chief of the Western Police District, who was known to shed a tear at the (false) news of Cory's passing. He is also a tough-as-nails follower of Cory, whose loyalty has never wavered, who indeed went out to fight off Enrile's and Honasan's legions when they tried to grab power from her in 1989. Lim got a commendation for it.

A vigil in the Manila Cathedral will be impregnable. A vigil in the Manila Cathedral will be unassailable.

Quite apart from that, there is Filipino Culture standing like the Frown of God in the way. Few things are sacred to us, Filipinos, but one of them is the gathering of kin and friends to extol the virtues of a loved one who has gone ahead of us. Cory may have only a tribe of kin, but she has the whole nation for friends—and I do not mean Facebook. If the country turns out to commiserate with the kin of someone who has done so much for it, what can you do? If all of us decide to keep physical vigil with someone who kept spiritual vigil with



There's The Rub
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

us in the hour of our death, what can Malacañang do?

You cannot prevent people from attending a vigil, certainly not one for what the country considers even now a living hero. Not even people who do not believe in God, or who do not know whether there is one or not. They too can always believe in the power of good and the reprehensibility of evil, and recognize the embodiments of one and the other.

You cannot trot out cops and police in battle gear to meet people who are making their way to the Manila Cathedral carrying candles to light their way in lieu of cursing the darkness. You cannot scuttle a vigil, you cannot dictate limits to how many people may wish to personally express their overpowering sense of bereavement, you cannot prevent people from lifting their voices to heaven asking God have mercy on someone who has brought heaven's light to the world, have mercy on a nation that has not always bathed in it.

You cannot impose a curfew on a vigil.

That is not to speak of what would happen if—pray heaven it is yet a long way off—Cory is finally reunited with her husband in the resting place of heroes. I have little doubt the crowds that will see her off, tears welling in their eyes, their hearts bursting with the magma of grief, will be bigger and more volcanic than the one that did so Ninoy. I have little doubt the men in barong and the women in dresses will be joined by the men in bare feet and the women with infants sucking on bare breasts, businessman and farmer, executive and laborer, priest and soldier, equestrian and plebeian, rich and poor, nun and whore, saint and sinner, chorusing, like Job, in anger and despair, "Please lang God, tama na, sobra na tigilan na."

I don't know that Malacañang began the rumor. I do know Malacañang will be the end of it.

in pre-school. The grandson often reminds his grandfather that the "P" word is a "bad word."

When I was in college, I wrote a research paper on curse words that required poring over many dictionaries, including those compiled and published during the Spanish period. This exercise gave me a life-long appreciation for dictionaries, so that now I have two shelves of dictionaries in my study always ready for work or pleasure.

I have learned early on that when buying a dictionary, one of the ways to measure its completeness is to look up the "bad words." If no expletives are found or explained away, the dictionary or vocabulary is not worth buying or using.

When I started my research into "bad words" in Filipino, my first stop was the huge dictionary by Vito C. Santos better known as the "Vicassan's Pilipino-English/English-Pilipino Dictionary." From there I went through, and was disappointed by, the thick volume "Hispanismos en el Tagalo" (Oficina de educacion Iberoamericana, Madrid, 1972). The dictionary has only one "bad word" in its 628 pages: "puta" (prostitute).

What turned out to be more useful were the anatomical terms in "Vocabulario de la lengua tagala" (Manila, 1869) compiled by the friars Noceda and Sanlucar in the 18th century. For example, the vulgar word for a part of a woman's anatomy "puqui" (now spelled with a "k") was not translated from the original Tagalog to Spanish unlike the rest of the words in the dictionary. The anatomical terms were rendered into Latin. Thus, "puqui" was rendered as "pars vaerenda mulieris, verbum turpissimum." Noceda and Sanlucar did not want to corrupt laymen and the general public that had access to their dictionary so they left some of the "bad words" in



Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Latin so that it would sound clinical and scientific, and of course could only be deciphered by someone who knew Latin.

Someone should really compile a dictionary of "bad words" that will not only give their meanings but also their etymology or the origin and the development of the words. Perhaps the words can also be placed in the context of usage, because how a word is understood over a period of time can change as I have shown in my last column where I explained

why "salvage" in Philippine usage means the opposite of its meaning in English.

To someone doing a dictionary equivalent, nothing should be wrong with the word "leche" which is "milk" in Spanish. How did this become a "bad word?" Well, there is a forgotten original "mala leche" that implies that one sucked or was raised on rotten or bad milk. Depending on how it is used, "leche" can simply mean milk or semen.

When two languages use the same word but this word has different meanings they are called "false friends." "Leche" is a good example. A more hilarious example is "lamierda" which in the Philippines is a colloquial term that means "going out together" (maglamierda tayo) and whose synonym is "pasyal" which in turn comes from the Spanish "pasear," a verb that means "take a walk" or "stroll." But "mierda" is the vulgar Spanish word for excrement, so if a Filipino invites someone in Spain to "lamierda," he may not realize that he has used "mierda" (shit) as a verb, and in a completely different way.

Language can indeed be fascinating, but in the case of "bad words" there is much that cannot be printed in this space. So to repeat President Arroyo's wise advice, if one aspires to the presidency, "don't use bad words in public."

Maharlika – Samu’t Sari



BIRTHDAY BASH
Pastor Brendon Perez of the Victorious Christian Church celebrates his 35th birthday with the men’s ministry. In this photo, the group celebrates the special occasion with a game of bowling. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Pastor Brendon Perez of the Victorious Christian Church continues the celebration of his 35th birthday with the men’s ministry at the American Memorial Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Score!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BERRY SWEET GREETING
Happy birthday to a Berry Sweet little girl, Elise Divine Furey Maratita, who will be having her 1st birthday celebration at the beach today. May you have a Berry wonderful day with lots of fun under the sun with family and friends! Run around, enjoy your gifts, and make a splash! May this celebration be the first of many more to come. Greetings coming from Daddy, Mommy and the whole family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Belated happy 2nd birthday to Melia B. Pua and advanced greeting to Daddy Hans, who is celebrating his birthday tomorrow, Sunday. Also, happy birthday to KJ Rekemesik. With love from the families. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



STANDARD BEARER
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is surrounded by Henry I. Sablan and his siblings. The Sablans hosted the Covenant Party candidates on Sunday, July 26, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Sen. Judith P. Guthertz and Pacific Islands Development Bank president Aren Palik join CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, at a fundraiser in Guam on Monday, July 27, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NEW PRISONS CHIEF
Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos administers the oath of office for Dolores San Nicholas after the Senate confirmed her nomination to the Department of Corrections on Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Acting Gov. Eloy Inos congratulates Department of Corrections Secretary Dolores San Nicholas after she was sworn into office following her Senate confirmation on Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

'Transformers' toys live up to big-screen robots

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Walter Mueller knows his Transformers.

The 32-year-old has been collecting the robot toys for more than 20 years. He even has one of the brand's main characters, Optimus Prime, tattooed in full color on his leg.

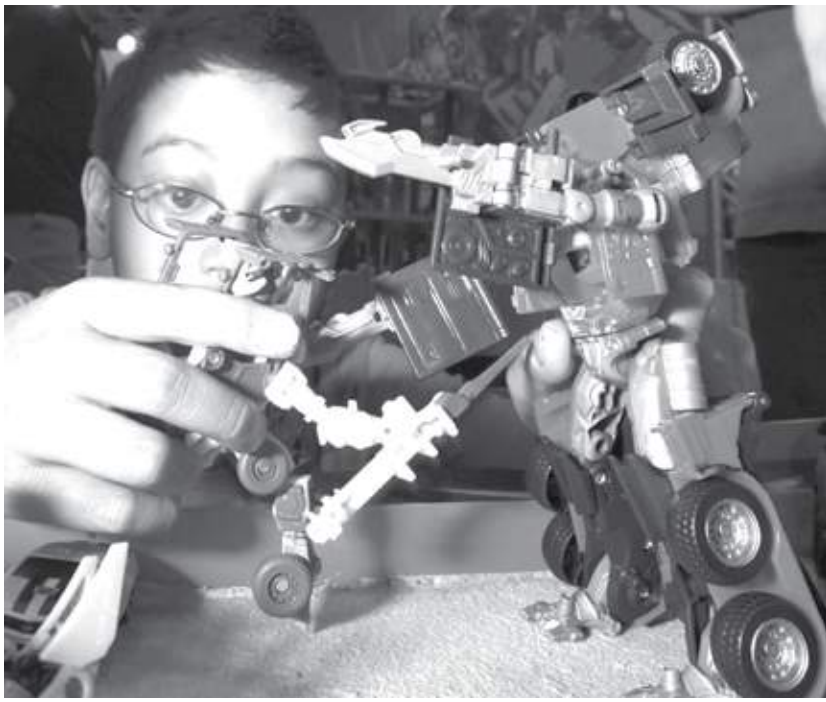
The owner of a meat-processing plant, Mueller recently traveled from his native Ontario, Canada, to Southern California to attend BotCon, the 15th annual Transformers convention, in hopes of adding to his arsenal of more than 1,000 toys.

The "Transformers" movie and its forthcoming sequel have spawned dozens of new characters, while also having the effect of making the shape-shifting robots infinitely more complex than the toys that were first introduced in 1984, the year Mueller became a fan. This self-perpetuating cycle—toys inspiring a film that inspired more sophisticated toys—has also made the miniaturized versions "cool again for a younger generation," Mueller said.

As the film raised the bar on the merchandise, the merchandise has responded, Mueller said.

"They're very movie-accurate," he said.

And that's by design—literally. Screenwriters Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman went to Hasbro's "Transformers school" to get to know the Autobots and Decepticons before crafting their story about alien robots who come to earth and befriend an American teenager.



In this May 29, 2009 file photo, Daniel Siapno of Alberta, Canada, plays with Transformers at BotCon 2009, the official Transformers convention, marking the 25th anniversary of the Transformer phenomenon in Pasadena, Calif.

"Even if I wasn't involved," Orci told a crowd at BotCon, "I'd want the toy to match the movie as much as possible."

The toy company's designers also worked hand-in-hand with director Michael Bay to ensure that the giant robot characters on screen would have matching downsized counterparts at toy stores worldwide. (Hasbro Inc. is a production partner on the picture, and its chief executive is credited as co-executive producer.)

"The movie is a challenge, but it's

a good challenge," said Hasbro senior design director Aaron Archer. "As (Bay) has ideas and his team has ideas, we put our lore and our characters in there and mix them back and forth. Then the guys at Hasbro have to figure out how to take this awesome car image and this awesome robot image and make it move in such a way that you end up with those looks."

The big-screen 'bots are entirely computer generated. Their detailed transformations look spectacular but

only exist in a digital world, making them far more complicated than their toy doppelgangers. A souped-up police car, for example, undergoes countless intricate, incremental changes to become the evil Decepticon Barricade. The plastic toys, however, must face the realities of 3-D physics—and be user-friendly enough for a kid to enjoy.

The film's introduction of real branded vehicles, such as the Pontiac Solstice and the Chevrolet Camaro, added to the toy-design challenge, Archer said.

"I know what a Solstice looks like. I can see one on the road, so the toy better live up to it," he said. "Prior to that, we kind of made up the car forms to feature the toy features."

"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," in theaters June 24, introduces more than 25 new characters to the Transformers family, including Sideswipe, a swordsmith disguised as a silver Corvette, and Soundwave, an evil cannon-wielding robot camouflaged as a spaceship that con-

trols human satellite transmissions.

Jack Horton, a 13-year-old from Cresson, Texas, who came to BotCon with his dad, said he's most interested in playing with Transformers that have appeared on screen.

"When I see it in the movie, I want it a lot more," he said. "But in the movie you only see it for a few seconds. With the toys you can do whatever you want."

And he's not disappointed that the toy transformation doesn't exactly replicate the giant-sized, computer-generated moves in the film.

"The special effects are ridiculously complicated," he said. "You can't do that with a toy."

Fans say the "Transformers: Animated" series more accurately depicts how the toys transform in the real world.

But the character attributes are constant in film and on TV, based largely on the 25-year-old Transformers mythology, said global marketing director Greg Lombardo.

Swinging for baseball's Triple Crown

By FRED BOWEN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A big question in Major League Baseball this summer is: Can St. Louis Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols win the Triple Crown?

A player wins the Triple Crown if he leads his league in batting average, home runs and runs batted in (RBI). It's hard to do: There hasn't been a Triple Crown winner in 42 seasons.

Can Pujols do it? If he stays healthy, he'll probably win the home run title. Pujols is in the middle of a solid lineup, so he should drive in enough runs to win the RBI crown, too. I'm not so sure Pujols can win the batting title. He's pretty far behind Hanley Ramirez, the all-star shortstop for the Florida Marlins.

If Pujols wins the Triple Crown, he will join an elite list of ballplayers, including:

■ Carl Yastrzemski (.326, 44 HR, 121 RBI in 1967): The Boston Red Sox left fielder was the last player to win the Triple Crown. Yaz was a very good player who had a spectacular year in 1967. He carried a team that had finished in ninth place the year before all the way to the seventh game of the World Series.

■ Frank Robinson (.316, 49 HR, 122 RBI in 1966): Yaz didn't seem like such a big deal because Frank Robinson had won the Triple Crown the year before, for the World Series champion Baltimore Orioles. Robinson, who became the first manager of the Nationals when baseball returned to Washington in 2005, was a hard-hitting, hard-playing outfielder who

hated to lose.

■ Mickey Mantle (.353, 52 HR, 130 RBI in 1956): I saw a guy at a baseball game recently wearing a New York Yankees replica shirt with the number 7 and the name "Mantle" on the back. Yankee fans remember Mantle because for about 10 to 12 years, he may have been the best player in baseball. And 1956 was the Mick's greatest season.

■ Ted Williams (.343, 32 HR, 114 RBI in 1947 and .356, 36 HR, 137 RBI in 1942): The Red Sox slugger may have been the greatest hitter ever. Williams

is the last man to hit .400 and one of only two players (Rogers Hornsby is the other) who won the Triple Crown twice. Between the two titles, Williams was busy fighting in World War II.

■ Joe "Ducky"

Medwick (.374, 31 HR, 154 RBI in 1937): Medwick is the last player in the National League to win the Triple Crown, another one of those good players who had one unbelievable season. By the way, the story goes that Medwick's nickname was short for "Ducky-Wucky." Not surprisingly, Medwick didn't like the nickname.

Some other baseball legends who won the Triple Crown: Lou Gehrig of the Yankees (.363, 49 HR, 165 RBI in 1934); Jimmy Foxx of the then-Philadelphia Athletics (.356, 48 HR, 163 RBI in 1933); and Ty Cobb of the Detroit Tigers (.377, 9 HR, 107 RBI in 1909).

Before long, maybe Albert Pujols will belong on this special list.

Bowen is an author of sports novels for kids.

Mail to the chief: What kids tell the president

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
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"Dear President Obama: Letters of Hope From Children Across America"

Edited by Bruce Kluger and David Tabatsky

Ages 7 and up
105 pages, with pictures

The historic election of Barack Obama was exciting for many children; in fact, among kids, few presidential elections (or candidates) have created such interest in national politics. The authors of "Dear President Obama: Letters of Hope From Children Across America" saw that enthusiasm and found a great way to show the feelings of hope and optimism that so many children felt during and after the election.

The layout of this book makes it easy to spend a little or a lot of time reading it. Most of the letters are shown exactly as they were written, on personal stationery and in the child's own handwriting. (And some of it is very good handwriting!)

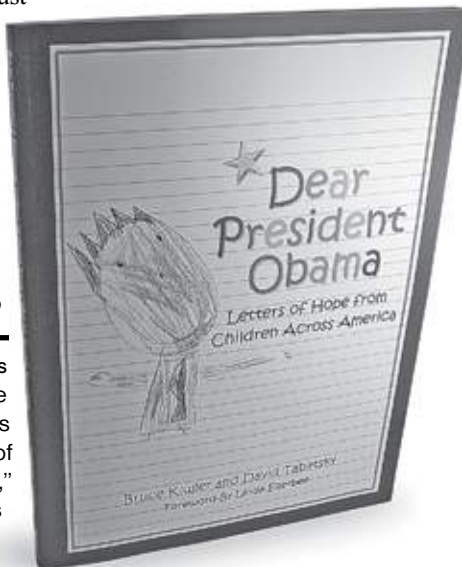
Some of the kids offer the kind of advice that shows just how much young people today know about what is going on in the world. The letters raise issues about helping the environment, having enough money for groceries, stopping the wars and many other serious subjects. "We all have to work together to

solve these problems," wrote 12-year-old Patrick Smith, of Ijamsville, Md.

But then there are letters that just take you by surprise and make you giggle, such as the one from 6-year-old Juliet, who asked the president to free all the lions from the zoos. (Yikes!) Or the 9-year-old boy who wants taxes to be lowered so his parents will have more money to buy him toys. A 5-year-old from New Jersey wrote that the president should get everyone in a circle so

they can listen to one another.

Hey, it works in preschool!



Through this picture book, Bruce Kluger and David Tabatsky, the authors of "Dear President Obama: Letters of Hope From Children Across America," found a great way to show the feelings of hope and optimism that so many children felt during and after the historic election of Barack Obama.

Read about it, then do it!

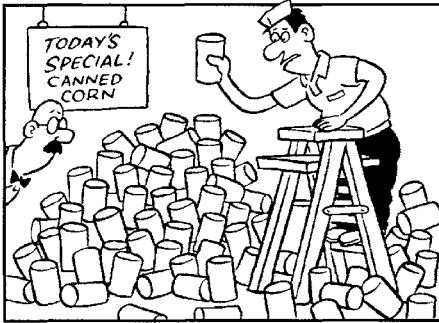
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Every day, President Obama is given 10 letters from regular people who wrote to the White House. One of them could be yours!

Writing to the president is a great way to learn more about an issue you care about. What would be the first thing you would want

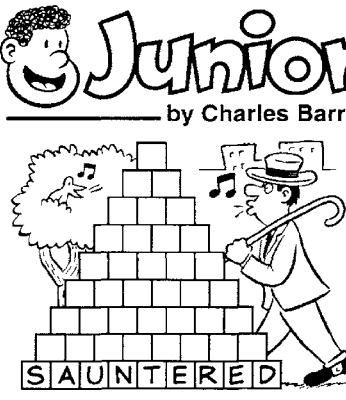
to say to President Obama? Whatever that topic is, why not do a little research first to find out more about it? That way you can make a more specific recommendation to the president about what you think he should do.

Oh, and by the way, the president's address is 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20500.



A "CORN"Y SITUATION! It's back to cart duty for Fred. Try totaling up the number of cans in our picture. You have 30 seconds.

Answer: We found 66.



Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend

PYRAMID OF WORD POWER! Let's see how fast you can stroll through this one! Starting with the given word SAUNTERED, at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters, at each level, spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with SAUNTERED.

Illustrated by David Coulson

1. Walked at a leisurely pace.
2. Where kelp grows.
3. To be well liked.
4. To be trapped.
5. Socially inept people.
6. Winter habitats.
7. The last page in a book.
8. Symbol of an element.
9. Most commonly used letter.

Answers: (from the bottom up): Sauntered, undersa, endsa, snared, ners, dens, end, NE (neon), e.

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TRY "RAPPIN'" TO THIS ONE! See if you can solve this AlphaMath puzzle in under 3 minutes. You must replace the letters to the right with the digits 0, 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.

Our answer: H=6, I=0, P=4, O=2, L=8, C=1, (604 + 624 = 1228.)

"READY, SET, SOLVE!" The words to fill in Grid B below contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A. Here are some hints to help you.

1. Most desirable.
2. Cut down.
3. Part of wood fence.
4. A rounded top.

Grid A: S, W, I, M
Grid B: T, E, A, M

Answers: 1. Best-beits, 2. Hewn-when, 3. Fall-lar, 4. Dome-demo.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was French playwright Albert Guinon who made the following sage observation: "When everyone is against you, it means that you are absolutely wrong—or absolutely right."
- If you're like the average man, you have roughly 15,000 whiskers on your face. (Yes, that pun was intended.)
- Several months ago, *The Baltimore Sun* reported this stranger-than-fiction true-crime story: A robber tried to use a sawed-off shotgun to hold up a man named Roland Scott. Incensed, Scott wrestled the gun away from the would-be thief and ordered the man to hand over his own money and take off his clothes. After the robber complied, Scott started beating the man with the butt of the weapon. During the beating, the shotgun went off, fatally shooting Scott in the stomach.
- That loose debris floating around up in space is actually traveling at about 44,000 miles per second.
- Every July 4 weekend, the town of Austin, Minn., hosts the SPAM Cookoff, featuring such delicacies as SPAM pizza, SPAM kabobs, SPAM Caesar salad, SPAM spring rolls, SPAM mousse, SPAM strudel and, yes, SPAM cheesecake.
- If you happen to live near railroad tracks, you probably aren't too thrilled with all the noise. Look on the bright side, though: You probably have a better-than-average garden. It seems that the vibrations from passing trains help plants to thrive.
- During a portion of the 19th century, the country of Switzerland changed its capital every two years.
- What do President Andrew Jackson, inventor Guglielmo Marconi, composer Irving Berlin, author Beatrix Potter and outlaws Jesse James and Butch Cassidy have in common? None of these famous personages had any formal schooling.

Thought for the Day: "The very purpose of existence is to reconcile the glowing opinion we have of ourselves with the appalling things that other people think about us."—Quentin Crisp

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MAGIC MAZE • TURNING 50 IN 2009

T G D A X V S P N K I F C A X
V N S Q O L L J H E C P A X V
T R N P N L I S J E I H F D M
B Y X A V T R R C E I P O C P
M S K I (M C E N R O E) R G I H
E D I B N R M C Z F W X U G I
W U T V H R E D N A X E L A L
R Y E C A P S B Q B O N L M L
L J I G H R E M L I K V F L I
D C A Y J X T D N O M S O M P
W V N O S U G R E F H A R A S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Alexander	Laurie	McEnroe	Sarah Ferguson
Emeril	M. Osmond	Olbermann	Spacey
Fabio	M. Phillips	R. Travis	V. Kilmer
J. Hahn	Magic	S. Cowell	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		13
-		x		x	
	x		-		23
x		+		+	
	x		-		22
20		23		15	

1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

TURNING 50 IN 2009

GO FIGURE ANSWER

15	23	20
6	7	4
22	8	x
+	+	x
23	1	3
x	x	-
13	9	8

Keeping pets safe in summer heat

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Can you alert your readers to the importance of paying extra attention to your pets during the summer months? It's another blistering hot summer here in the South, and almost every afternoon I see neighborhood pets struggle to deal with hot sidewalks, or panting with thirst. Many thanks.—Charlene in Smyrna, Ga.

DEAR CHARLENE: Definitely. As you note, it's extremely important for owners to keep a close eye on their pets, even if they're indoors all the time. Here's a list to follow:

1. Fresh, cool water should always be available, indoors and out.
2. Dogs (and some cats) welcome an occasional ice cube, but watch them while they eat it. Dogs usually like crunching the cubes, and there's a choking risk.
3. Outdoor pets need a shady spot with good airflow in which to rest.
4. Check on outdoor pets frequently (every 15 to 30 minutes).

5. Don't chain a dog outside while you go to work. Besides it being lonely, the dog is at risk from the heat, from predators or other dogs, and from humans. Plus, prolonged chaining is a form of abuse. Find a doggie daycare or a pet sitter to monitor and care for your dog.
6. Indoor pets tend to be smaller and can be sensitive to wide swings in temperature, so keep the house temperature in a comfortable range (68 F. to 78 F.).



perature, so keep the house temperature in a comfortable range (68 F. to 78 F.).

7. Cats should have both sunny and shady places to stretch out indoors.
8. If traveling with your pet, don't leave small pets in the car, even with the windows cracked. They can easily succumb to the heat.
9. Monitor your pet for signs of injury or heat stress: excessive panting, lethargy, a matted coat or behavioral changes. If you suspect heat injury, rush your pet straight to the veterinarian.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Breeze into August with a cool-down fan

One night I was out at a restaurant, and the waiter brought a bowl of rice to the table. It grabbed my attention away from the dinner conversation because the presentation was so beautiful. The rice looked much more appealing than the rice I serve at home. Then I realized why. When I make rice, I always put it in my trusty white bowl. By contrast, this bowl was burnt orange on the outside and lapis blue on the inside. Stunning.

Color is powerful. Fresh, bright colors can make you happy and fill you with energy. Yellows and oranges can warm you. Reds can get you all fired up, and greens and blues cool and soothe. When you see them all together, it's a colorful fiesta of feelings. No wonder kids are so expressive with color.

Watch a room of preschoolers finger-paint and you'll feel energy bouncing off the walls as they take paint out of the jar and swish and swoosh big, bold, colorful designs. Then they grab a fresh sheet of paper and start all over again!

Bring color into a hot summer day with your preschooler by making a cool fan from a standard white shirt gift box, a wooden paint stick and a palette of markers. Then teach your young artists a simple trick to make the marker designs look like watercolors.

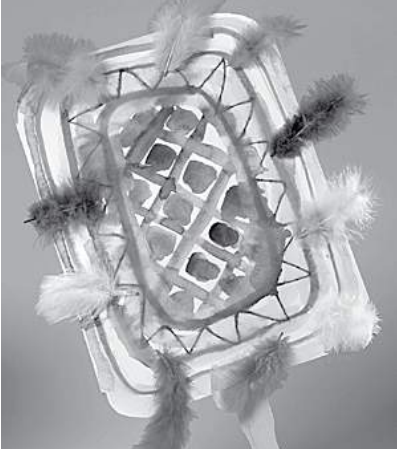
Here's how to make a flat-sided fan:

1. Cut off and recycle the four sides of the top or bottom of a plain, white standard-size shirt gift box, leaving the large rectangle. Trim off all four sharp corners with scissors so that the fan won't poke your skin when you wave it.

2. For a handle, glue or tape a flat wooden paint stick in the middle of a shorter edge of the glossy side of the cardboard. Place the fan lengthwise in front of you with the handle coming out at the bottom.
3. Use markers (Mr. Sketch brand

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



works well) to make simple designs all over the fan, such as zigzags, circles, dots and wavy lines. For fun, first practice making the designs in the air with your fingers and hands before drawing on the fan with markers.

4. Dip a paintbrush in water, and then brush on the design made by the markers. The water magically spreads the color, similar to madras plaid. When dry, decorate with craft feathers, if you wish.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Jackson kids to live with grandma, visit mother

Michael Jackson's children will live with their grandmother under an agreement reached with the King of Pop's ex-wife that ensures the youngsters won't have to endure a public fight over who raises them.

The agreement announced Thursday preserves Jackson's wishes as spelled out in his 2002 will, and reopens the door to a relationship with Deborah Rowe, the mother of Jackson's two oldest children. Rowe will be allowed to see her children in visits coordinated by a child psychologist.

Rowe will receive no money from the deal, as she had after previous custody arrangements with Jackson.

The agreement ends the possibility of a lengthy and public custody battle between Katherine Jackson and Rowe. It spares the children, who range in age from 7 to 12, from appearing before a judge and declaring who they would prefer to live with.

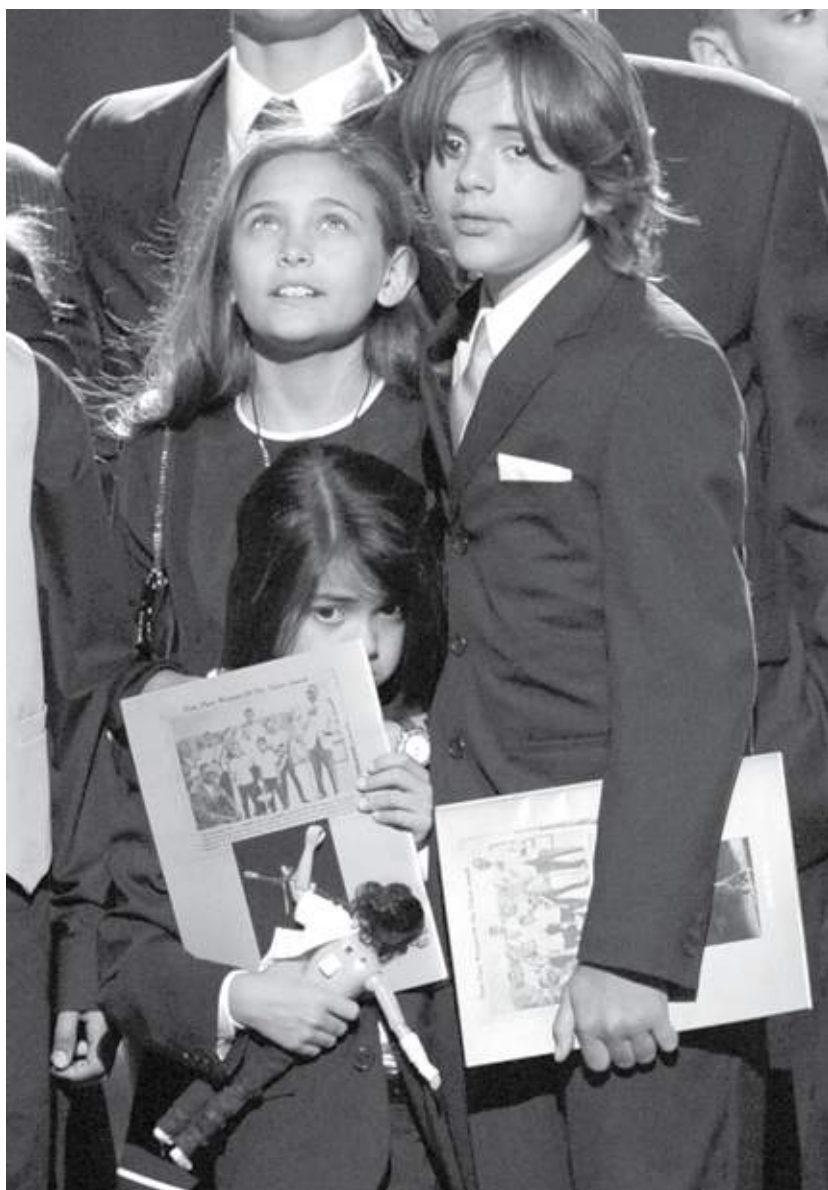
The announcement also ends weeks of rampant speculation about who would care for the children and Rowe's intentions, which were never officially announced before Thursday.

Michael Jackson, who died June 25 at 50, was the sole parent to his three children. He was married to Rowe for three years, but both had described the relationship as borne out of friendship and that Rowe had given birth to Prince Michael, 12, and Paris-Michael, 11, as a "gift." They divorced after Paris-Michael was born.

His third child, 7-year-old Prince Michael II, known as Blanket, was born to a surrogate and the mother's identity has never been revealed.

In a joint statement, attorneys for both women made clear that the agreement was reached with the children's best interests in mind.

"Mrs. Jackson and the family are pleased this matter is resolved and was



In this Tuesday, July 7, 2009 file picture, Paris Jackson, left, Prince Michael Jackson I and Prince Michael Jackson II stand together on stage during the memorial service for their father Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

handled in a caring, thoughtful and courteous manner by the parties and their representatives," L. Londell McMillan and Diane Goodman, attorneys for Mrs. Jackson, wrote in a statement. "We were

all united in our goals to do what is best for Michael's wonderful children, and both Mrs. Jackson and Debbie Rowe were on the exact same page."

Eric M. George, an attorney for

Warrants for Jackson's doc call singer 'addict'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities investigating Michael Jackson's death referred to him as an "addict" and were seeking evidence related to the powerful anesthetic propofol, according to search warrants released Thursday.

The documents show investigators have cause to believe several California Business and Professions codes had been broken, including "excessive prescribing," a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or imprisonment for up to 180 days.

Los Angeles police and federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents spent much of Tuesday at the Las Vegas home and business of Jackson's personal doctor, Conrad Murray, who is the focus of a manslaughter investigation. The raids sought evidence supporting that charge, as well as code violations, including "prescribing to an addict" and "unprofessional conduct."

The state codes cover all prescribing professionals, including doctors and dentists, and violations could lead to a revoked or suspended license, said Kimberly Kirchmeyer, deputy director of the Medical Board of California. The codes state a physician cannot prescribe drugs to anyone

with a chemical dependency or who is using the drugs for non-therapeutic purposes; they define an addict as someone who continues to use a drug despite harm, shows compulsive use or has impaired control over use.

The warrants, which had been sealed when the searches were conducted, also said investigators wanted all documentation relating to the "purchase, transfer, receiving, ordering, delivery and storage of propofol."

A law enforcement official earlier told The Associated Press that on the day Jackson died Murray gave him propofol to help him sleep and that investigators are working under the theory the anesthetic caused Jackson's heart to stop. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

A cause of death has yet to be announced. The Los Angeles County coroner has twice said toxicology findings on Jackson were imminent but after meeting Thursday with investigators Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter announced an indefinite delay. Winter said further investigation needs to be done; he did not go into detail.



Murray

Rowe, called the agreement a "dignified outcome." George credited Katherine Jackson's attorneys for their work on the deal, and expressed pride with Rowe for "her integrity and selflessness."

Keeping Mrs. Jackson as the children's guardian should ease the numerous transitions they're undergoing, said Jill Waterman, a UCLA psychologist and adjunct professor. (AP)

Christina Aguilera becomes DJ, talks music, film

NEW YORK (AP)—You'll be hearing more of Christina Aguilera's voice on the radio soon, but it won't be in the form of a song. Instead, the pop singer will work as a DJ.

Aguilera's very own radio station is set to debut Friday. The 24-hour on-line channel will be distributed across Clear Channel Radio's "iheartradio" network, and will feature interviews, news, personal commentary from Aguilera as well as her favorite tunes.

"It stands across so many different feels and genres from A Tribe Called Quest to the Beatles to Billie Holiday to Bjork to Black Sabbath, Jay-Z," she said in a phone interview from Los Angeles on Wednesday.

The new radio venture, A.P.E. Radio (Artist Personal Experience), will also launch The Eagles' own channel Friday, to be hosted by guitarist Joe Walsh. Weezer's station is set to launch next month.

The radio station is not the only project she's working on. Aguilera, a 28-year-old mother to a 1-year-old son, is also working on a new CD and

has signed on to do a movie with Cher; both are due to be released next year.

The Associated Press: How does a radio channel fit you?

Aguilera: In the beginning when I make my CDs, I make inspiration record-CDs and I hand them out to all the producers that I am looking forward to working with. And I hand out these CDs and at the end of the day it's funny because all the producers, or a lot of the producers, are like, "Wow, you should be a DJ." It's a really great mix of songs, and they're so different and eclectic and that's my style in general.

AP: Will you premiere your new music on the channel?

Aguilera: Possibly. I'm really, really excited to release some of my new music and this is actually a great way to let my fans hear maybe a little sneak preview.

AP: You're working on electronic-futuristic pop. Why that sound now?

Aguilera: I kind of had an idea for a futuristic feel for many years now, but I also had that idea that I wanted to do a soul, blues and jazz record also. But I

knew I had to do that one first ... It's always been in the back of my mind to do a more futuristic sound. But I felt like it couldn't been a better time or place for me personally also as a new mom.

AP: While you're creating your new CD, are you paying attention to what's on the radio now?

Aguilera: No, that was the funny thing too. I did start to notice that music did start to take a more electronic turn ... But I really don't pay attention to what's going on out there because I want everything I do to have a very original feel. I wanted to keep a good balance of future but still mix it with a very real and believable sound.

AP: Now that you have a family, have you had any issues with paparazzi?

Aguilera: We moved into our new house about a year ago but since I started working on the record, I have a studio in the backyard ... and it just has been so perfect for me to just wake up in the morning, put on my flip flops and sweat pants, and just go back in the studio and pretty much get into my



In this April 24, 2009 file photo, Christina Aguilera performs at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center's "An Evening with Women: Celebrating Art, Music and Equality," in Beverly Hills, Calif.

creative cave and zone out that way, so it's been really convenient. So the paparazzi have probably been upset with me. I know they told my husband, they're like, "Is she every going to leave the house?"

AP: Talk about your new film "Burlesque."

Aguilera: I finally believed in a movie enough and a script enough, and a director enough to sign on and do my first feature film. Cher will be starring with me, so it's very exciting for me to step into that project and I'll be taking it very seriously so that's actually what I am diving into filming over the next few months.

AP: What comes to mind when you look back at how your career has gone so far?

Aguilera: I keep trying to test myself and try new things because at the end of the day, I want to look back at a huge body of work and be so excited ... I never like to get too comfortable because I think that's when you start to really fail, when you start believing your own hype so I'm always very reserved in my own praise of myself. ... I always try to shoot for bigger and better basically.

In Cuba, Del Toro wins award with Murray on hand

HAVANA (AP)—Benicio del Toro accepted a new Cuban government award for international artists at a ceremony in Havana on Thursday, while Bill Murray entertained a small audience by crooning from “As Time Goes By.”

Fellow actors Robert Duval and James Caan were also on hand as the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba gave Puerto Rican-born del Toro the first Tomas Gutierrez Alea Prize for his career body of work, including the lead in “Che.”

Steven Soderbergh’s two-part, 4 1/2-hour biopic on Argentine-born revolutionary Ernesto “Che” Guevara, who helped Fidel Castro take power in Cuba in 1959, was a hit on the island, often showing in theaters that had not been refurbished since the 1950s.

Murray wowed union members packed into a room behind the group’s main headquarters, grabbing a microphone, singing and then jokingly passing around



Miguel Barnet, President of the Cuban Artists and Writers Association, left, is seen along with actor Benicio Del Toro after accepting his award in Havana, Thursday, July 30, 2009.

a baseball cap to collect tips for the piano player. He said later he was most-taken with another time warp-like aspect of Cuba.

“I sure like the cars. I get excited about the cars,” Murray said, referring to the hulking 1950s Chevrolets, Fords and other

classic American roadsters that still ply Cuba’s potholed streets. While the communist system restricts ownership of new vehicles, it allows Cubans to keep models made before the revolution.

Del Toro was in Havana on an unrelated trip that overlapped

with a separate, 4-day visit by Murray, Caan and Duval, who are here on professional research and were invited to the award ceremony.

Cuba is famous for having been a mafia playground before Castro took power, and Duval and Caan both starred in Francis Ford Coppola’s 1972 gangster classic “The Godfather.”

“Caan, he’s my godfather, no pun intended!” de Toro joked.

Duval—who like Murray was making his first trip to the island—said he was looking forward to getting a taste of authentic Cuban music, including Mambo.

“Hopefully we can go out and see some of the guys dance danzon,” he said.

The Tomas Gutierrez Alea Prize is named for the late Cuban writer and filmmaker who directed more than 20 features and struck a balance between defending Castro’s revolution and using wit to criticize it. He died in 1996.

Ohio chiefs at center of surrogate case arrested

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Two police chiefs suspected of snooping for tabloid fodder at the home of a surrogate mother for actors Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick have been arrested on undisclosed charges.

A special prosecutor has been looking into whether the eastern Ohio chiefs illegally entered the woman’s home in May, when she wasn’t there, but it is unclear if the police chiefs’ arrests relate to that investigation.

Martins Ferry Police Chief

Barry Carpenter and Bridgeport Police Chief Chad Dojack were booked Wednesday night and released, Belmont County jail personnel confirm. The jail would not release charges.

There are no residential phone numbers listed for Carpenter or Dojack. Martins Ferry police would not comment Thursday and Bridgeport police referred calls to the mayor. Messages were left Thursday at Bridgeport Mayor John Callarik’s office and at the office of Martins Ferry Mayor Phil Wallace.

The special prosecutor in the case, Harrison County Prosecutor T. Shawn Hervey, was out of town Thursday and would not comment or release any information until Friday morning, said a woman answering the phone at his office. He has said he would take the case to a grand jury if he were to pursue charges.

The Belmont County court clerk’s office confirmed that arraignments for the two were scheduled Friday morning before Common Pleas Judge John Solovan, but Solovan’s office

would not provide any details. Court officials said information on any secret grand jury indictments cannot be released until after arraignments.

The surrogate mother gave birth to Parker’s and Broderick’s twin girls June 22 at an Ohio hospital.

Hervey had said earlier that initial allegations against the police chiefs were taken to the county sheriff’s office. Officials determined that a special prosecutor from outside the county should handle the investigation.

Grieving daughter rebuffs friends’ comforting words

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My father was murdered. I am dealing with it the best I can. I appreciate that people want to extend their condolences, but I have started letting my phone go directly to voice mail because I just can’t handle hearing, “You’re in my prayers,” or, “This is all part of some plan.” I want to be left alone!



Dear Abby

I am angry, Abby, and I don’t want to take it out on people who care about me. One of my in-laws has been telling me I need to “suck it up” and allow others the privilege of trying to make me feel better. I think I have the right to grieve in the manner I choose. Who is correct?

GRIEF-STRICKEN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR GRIEF-STRICKEN: YOU are! Your in-law’s comment was incredibly insensitive. Under the circumstances, your feelings are normal, part of the grieving process, and nobody has the right to tell you how to work through it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Over the past two years my daughter and son-in-law have lost a lot of weight. They, as well as my grandsons, eat very little and don’t like being put in the position of having to order food.

My problem is not knowing how to celebrate without food. When I think of holidays, I think of a family meal. I’m usually imaginative, but this stumps me. Any ideas?

STUMPED IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR STUMPED: You’re not alone in associating food with socializing. Eating is so ingrained in our culture it seems to have become our national pastime. However, it doesn’t have to be that way.

Rather than plan a meal, invite your daughter and her family to a movie, sporting event—even a short hike, if you’re up to it. And if you feel you must serve something, offer to bring along a healthy snack, such as fruit or veggies, that they can enjoy if they get the munchies.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a wonderful man with many interests and activities. We have an active social life and friends of all ages. My problem is he constantly tells everyone about his ailments, medications and medical issues no matter how big or small.

I am uncomfortable with this topic because I don’t feel these are things you bring up with people other than your family or your doctor—and certainly not in casual conversations with anyone who will listen. Am I wrong?

MARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR MARY: You are correct. For the most part, casual acquaintances are not interested in hearing an “organ recital” when they ask the casual, “How are you?” In fact, sooner or later they avoid people who constantly complain and talk only about themselves. The popular person is the one who shows an interest in others.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have always heard that if something seems to be too good to be true then it must be. Several of my relationships ended with very hurt feelings on both sides. In one case, I relocated to another state to escape the drama.

Now I finally seem to have found my dream girl. It has been more than a year now, and it still feels like it’s the first time whenever we see each other. We have more in common than I ever thought possible. We rarely disagree—except when we argue about who loves the other more.

Do you believe there is truth in that old adage, or could love this empowering and refreshing be for real?

SMITTEN IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR SMITTEN: Most of the old adages have some truth to them, but people don’t live their lives according to the old adages. And yes, love this empowering and refreshing could, indeed, be for real. So to quote another adage, “Only time will tell.” Write me in another year and tell me how it’s going.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Ang Lee attends NY screening of ‘Taking Woodstock’

CHATHAM, N.Y. (AP)—Ang Lee is in upstate New York for the first of several U.S. screenings of his upcoming movie “Taking Woodstock.” Lee and screenwriter/producer James Schamus are attending a benefit screening of the movie Thursday night in rural Columbia County, near where some scenes for the movie were filmed last year. “Taking Woodstock” is based on a memoir by Elliot Tiber and chronicles the lead-up to the concert that drew half a million people to a farm in the Catskills. The movie opens next month around Woodstock’s 40th anniversary. The screening at the Crandell Theater is a fundraiser for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and The Chatham Film Club Lee and Schamus will attend another screening Aug. 8 in Woodstock.

David: ‘Seinfeld’ cast to reunite on ‘Curb’

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Larry David says the on-screen reunion of the “Seinfeld” cast will be “tough to beat.” The “Seinfeld” co-creator and “Curb Your Enthusiasm” creator-star says the cast will appear together in the finale of the upcoming seventh season of the HBO

comedy series. It marks the first time in 11 years that Jerry Seinfeld, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Jason Alexander and Michael Richards have appeared together on screen. David says the “Seinfeld” stars will appear in five “Curb” episodes during the season in a storyline about the cast reuniting. He says he worked closely with Seinfeld on the show-within-a-show script. He also says an actual “Seinfeld” reunion is unlikely. The comments were made at a meeting of the Television Critics Association.

Elmore Leonard character star of TV’s ‘Lawman’

DETROIT (AP)—FX says a new drama series called “Lawman” will debut next spring and is based on the character Raylan Givens created by veteran crime novelist Elmore Leonard. The cable network says 13 episodes have been shot for “Lawman.” The show stars Timothy Olyphant in the role of U.S. Marshall Givens, an old-fashioned lawman who was featured in Leonard’s short story “Fire in the Hole.” Leonard will serve as an executive producer. Olyphant starred in HBO’s “Deadwood” and has also appeared in a number of films, including “Hitman” and “The Girl Next Door.”

Geffen to release album featuring Benedict XVI

LONDON (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI will release an album on which he sings and recites prayers to the Virgin Mary, his label said Friday. The pontiff’s as-yet-untitled album also includes eight original pieces of contemporary classical music, Geffen/Universal said. The pope is accompanied by the Choir of the Philharmonic Academy of Rome, recorded in St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican. The original compositions are performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, recorded at London’s Abbey Road studios. The album was not a Vatican initiative but was arranged with Multimedia San Paolo, an Italian Catholic media group. Proceeds will go to fund music education for underprivileged children around the world. The album is due for release on Nov. 30. Benedict is not the first pope to have his creative efforts captured on record. Last year tenor Placido Domingo recorded an album of poems by the late Pope John Paul II.

‘Jon & Kate’ to continue, ditch interview couch

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jon and Kate Gosselin are over, but

“Jon & Kate Plus 8” continues. TLC president Eileen O’Neill says the popular reality show, which has been on hiatus since the Gosselins announced their split in June, returns Monday with new episodes that document the Gosselins “separately parenting” their eight children. O’Neill says the iconic sofa from which the couple addressed the camera is gone and replaced by “separate interview chairs.” TLC will “continue to capture this family’s journey in a respective and sensitive way,” she says. O’Neill made her comments at a meeting of the Television Critics Association.

ABC expands medical coverage, hires CDC doctor

ABC News has hired a top government doctor as part of an expansion of its medical coverage. Dr. Richard Besser, who was acting director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention when the swine flu epidemic began earlier this year, will join the network as senior health and medical editor. ABC also promoted its longtime health commentator, Dr. Timothy Johnson, to chief medical editor. Johnson is a regular on “Good Morning America,” “World News,” “Nightline” and “20/20.” (AP)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



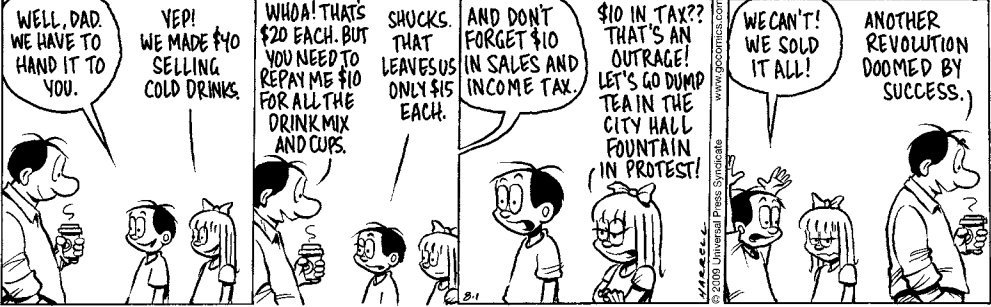
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Others like it

5 Impulse

9 Piping material, for short

12 Largest of the seven

13 Carrots' mates

14 Lubricant

15 Approach

16 Iodine source

17 Actress Thompson

18 Let gravity take over

19 Tokyo's old name

20 Lascivious

21 Indivisible

23 Hot tub

25 Get back

28 Laundry container

32 Obsess

33 "Man-swers" network

34 Round-the-world trips?

36 High

DOWN

11 Dressed sandwich, often

22 Eccentric

24 Stickum

25 Pi follower

26 Anvil locale

27 Young lion

29 Wrestling victory

30 — out a living

31 Roulette bet

35 Libra

36 Like some winter roads

39 Campus area

40 Pakistan language

41 In due time

43 Get over-emotional

45 Do as you're told

46 Burn some

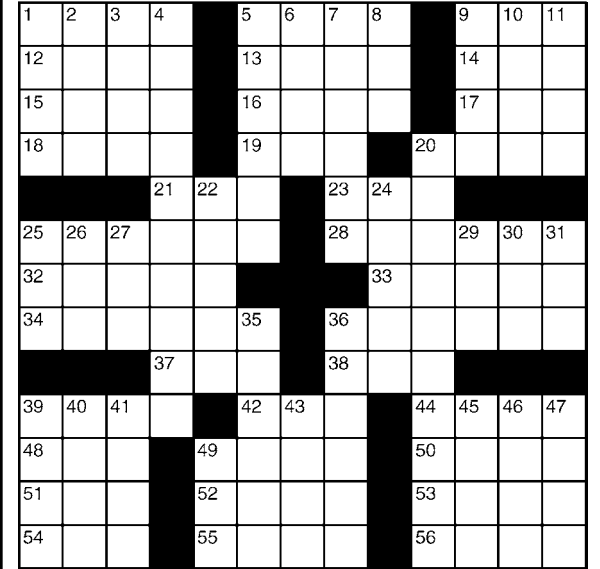
47 Public show

49 Support system?

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	L	L	F	A	T	E	S	T	O	W
S	E	A	O	V	E	R	P	A	P	A
S	A	N	G	U	I	N	E	R	U	E
G	O	L	D	H	I	T	C	H		
A	P	S	E	S		S	W	A	N	
G	U	I	S		S	L	E	I	G	H
U	R	N		C	H	A	N	G	A	R
E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T		K	N
Y	E	E	G		L	O	G	E	S	
V	A	U	L	T		K	A	L	E	
O	R	S	O		K	A	N	G	A	R
T	E	E	N		O	R	E	O		N
E	A	R	S		I	C	E	S		N

Yesterday's answer 8-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Adam Duritz, 45; Tempestt Bledsoe, 36; Coolio, 46; Tom Leykis, 53

Happy Birthday: You are a strong spokesperson and a good friend and you stand up for your beliefs. All these traits will help you get through the changes you have to make this year. The need to reinvent your life, what you do or even who you are will be all-consuming. This is a year of transition, opportunities and, most of all, personal victory. Your numbers are 5, 13, 15, 21, 26, 33, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid discord. You are better off putting your effort into a cause you believe in and accomplishing something that will bring you praise. Change is upon you and acceptance is probably your best choice. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you want to make a residential move, do so, but with the intent to lessen (not increase) your financial burden. Put one of your master plans to work for you but realize the time and effort required to reap the monetary rewards. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A chance to advance using one of your unique ideas will be easy if you express your desire to try something new. An interesting opportunity will allow you to work more from home or implement your own small business on the side. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to your game plan and everything will work out in your favor. A situation at home may lead to uncertainty or added responsibility.

If you play your cards right, this can lead to more clout and control. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put time and effort into your appearance and you will receive compliments and additional attention. Welcome a challenge so you can show how skillful you can be. Don't let temptation cause a problem in your personal life. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A partnership will not turn out to be what you expect. Be prepared to jump ship if need be. You may have to go it alone. Stay on top of your personal situation but, if someone becomes aggressive, back off. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Start pursuing your dreams. You have everything going for you except motivation and, if you don't get going, you will miss out on an opportunity of a lifetime. Use your ingenuity and put your talents to good use. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep a watchful eye on your personal possessions and the situation you are facing with family and friends. You have to keep everyone guessing if you want to avoid a mishap that is intentionally or unintentionally directed at you. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need to remember your past in order to keep your life goals and your future plans clear. Making the same mistake again isn't an option, even if it is tempting you. Let go of the past. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend time on serious matters but not at the ex-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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pense of annoying someone you've neglected. Uncertainty with regard to legal, financial or contractual dealings should be left alone until you have a better handle on what is actually taking place. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put more effort into your surroundings, your personal life and your relationships. A sudden change of plans by someone you thought you knew will make you realize your next step and who you should be spending more time with. ★★★★★

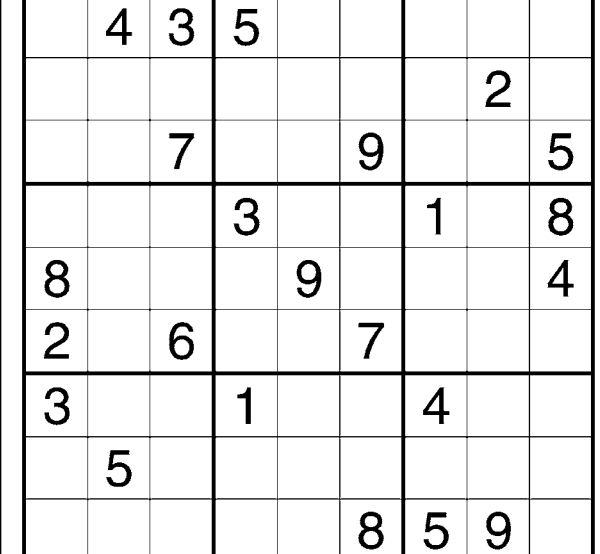
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make changes at home that will please the ones you love. An unfortunate lesson regarding your work will lead to altering your plans and future expectations. Take action, make changes and move forward. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive and see things with clarity. You are strong and ready to take on anything. You are proud and an advocate for justice and fair play.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/01

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	4	3	7	6	8	5	2
6	8	5	4	1	2	7	3	9
2	7	3	8	9	5	6	1	4
4	3	7	6	5	8	2	9	1
1	2	9	7	4	3	5	8	6
5	6	8	1	2	9	4	7	3
8	5	1	9	6	4	3	2	7
7	4	2	5	3	1	9	6	8
3	9	6	2	8	7	1	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/01

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MANUAL CAN OPENERS Solution: 7 letters

W N E A T L Y H A N D L E Y R
R E E T W I S T L H S E G D E
I D Z T H A N G I S K R E A V
S S R E H I D N G U I R E E E
T N I A E G T E N P U R F T L
L C A Z W U I R H C O F A S T
G L E P E E Q T E T L I S E H
K N A R C S R S N T O E N T T
Y T I W A A A E U E R O D T O
E R A C T W M E P P C E T O O
E A A C A P K R L I P I S H M
L P H T I L A O R E Y O V N S
Y E C U O H P C O R R S R E I
T H Q R S R L C Y C L E A T D
S E E N N E R E T E M I R E P

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 8/1

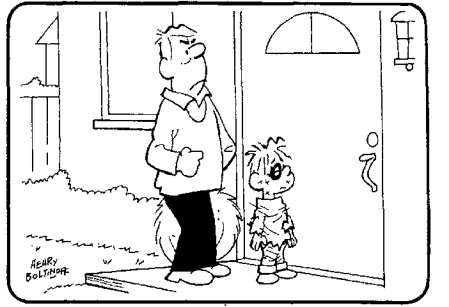
Align, Care, Circle, Cookware, Crank, Cycle, Device, Drawer, Easy, Edges, Equipment, Fast, Grip, Handle, Hang, Insert, Lever, Model, Neatly, Part, Perimeter, Pierce, Placing, Point, Push, Ratchet, Release, Rotary, Safe, Secure, Sharp, Size, Smooth, Snap, Squeeze, Steady, Strength, Style, Support, Tear, Test, Tighten, Toothed, Turn, Twist, Wall, Watch, Wrist

Yesterday's Answer: Province

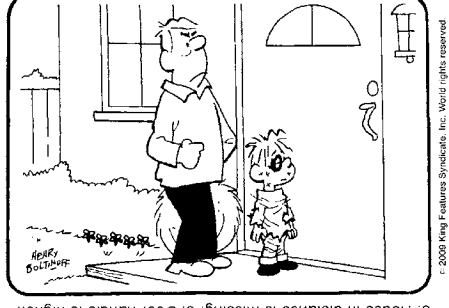
NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man's collar is different. 2. Boy's shoes are black. 3. Flowers are added. 4. Window is different. 5. House in distance is missing. 6. Door handle is higher.

Wishing Well®

4	7	4	3	7	2	4	2	7	4	7	2	3
L	D	I	S	O	B	F	E	N	E	O	E	O
2	8	2	8	6	7	3	7	5	8	2	7	2
X	K	P	E	L	T	C	J	P	E	R	U	E
3	2	4	3	8	4	8	7	8	3	7	8	4
I	S	W	A	P	I	L	D	I	L	G	F	T
3	8	2	6	7	4	7	3	4	6	3	7	5
A	E	S	O	E	H	O	C	F	V	C	T	R
8	2	8	5	8	6	7	4	2	3	6	7	6
S	I	I	O	M	E	H	E	V	L	G	E	A
5	3	4	3	2	5	4	3	7	8	4	5	6
F	A	R	I	E	O	V	M	R	P	O	U	I
5	7	8	4	6	5	8	5	6	5	6	5	5
N	S	L	R	N	D	E	L	E	O	D	V	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

BERN-ING DESIRE

ACROSS

1 Foo

6 Most

12 Samoyed's

15 Solidify

18 Half the

20 Actress

21 Unwell

22 Castilian cry

23 Start of a

27 He's a doll

28 Maugham's

29 Ration, with

30 Shaggy

31 Eban of

33 Maroon

36 Coeur d'—

37 The Jetsons'

40 Boxing blow

41 Tom of

44 Part 2 of

48 Songwriter

49 Pierce

53 Corsage

54 Sycophant

55 Border —

57 Antipollution

58 Squid's

59 Undo an

60 Rock's Pink

61 October

63 Average

64 Stack role

65 Conspire

66 Narrow

67 Vitamin

69 Part 3 of

73 Presidential

74 Philatelist's

76 Frank

77 — Man

79 Cleaning

82 Castle

83 Custom

85 Belief

86 Viral illness

87 Everything

88 Bacall or

90 Paraguayan

91 UK honor

92 Gooly

94 Gourmet

95 Part 4 of

98 Humble

100 It may get

101 Hall's

102 — Dame

105 Cavort in

107 Made cotton

109 The chosen

110 WWII site

111 Rush

112 Periodic-

115 End of

122 Zsa Zsa's

123 Actor

124 Virgilian

125 Vintner

126 Fled

127 Word with

128 In

130 Architectural

131 — deco

132 Singer

133 TV's

134 With 103

135 Poet

136 McKuen

137 "A Dandy in

138 Oinkers

139 Barrie sprite

142 Put the

143 Biblical

145 To be, in

146 Poke fun at

147 Range rope

148 Shirley of

150 Novice

151 Make — of

152 Bete noire

155 Circus

156 "Mama"

159 Kind of paint

160 Armada

162 Cartoon cry

163 Charle-

168 Excavated

170 Reserved

171 Where

172 Devils fight

173 High-toned

174 POC,

175 Mrs. Munster

178 It'll curl your

180 Dramatist

181 Risk an

183 Tints

184 Cuffs

185 Saw

186 Hens and

189 Record abbr.

190 Hens and

193 "Angel"

195 Something

196 "— don't

197 Blocker or

199 Firefly, for

200 Lawn

202 More up-to-

203 See 34

204 Big guy

206 Skirt feature

207 Silly Caesar

208 Pedigreed

210 Ballad or

211 Actress

212 Maintain

213 Actor Amaz

214 Hammett

216 Grab all the

217 Vane letters

218 Velvet finish

219 Free (of)

220 Pro-gun

221 Bankbook

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What country

claims Addis Ababa as its capital?

2. MUSIC: What is the real

name of Irish rock band U2's

lead singer Bono?

3. SCIENCE: Which famous sci-

entist was known as "the Wizard

of Menlo Park"?

4. MOVIES: What was the name

of the fictional town that was the

setting for "Back to the Future"?

5. SPACE: Who was the last as-

tronaut to step on the moon?

6. ENTERTAINERS: What was

the name of Michael Jackson's

pet chimpanzee?

7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What

is the name for an animal that

eats insects?

8. MEDICINE: Who produced the

first vaccine for rabies?

9. TELEVISION: What was Andy

Kaufman's character named on

the comedy series "Taxi"?

10. LITERARY: Who wrote the novel

"The Bridge of San Luis Rey"?

10. Thornton Wilder

9. Letika Graves

8. Louis Pasteur

7. Insectivore

6. Bubbles

5. Eugene Cernan

4. Hill Valley

3. Thomas Edison

2. Paul Hewson

1. Ethiopia

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Saturday's Answers

ACROSS	1. FOO	6. MOST	12. SAMOYED'S	15. SOLIDIFY	18. HALF THE	20. ACTRESS	21. UNWELL	22. CASTILIAN CRY	23. START OF A	27. HE'S A DOLL	28. MAUGHAM'S	29. RATION, WITH	30. SHAGGY	31. EBAN OF	33. MAROON	36. COEUR D'	37. THE JETSONS'	40. BOXING BLOW	41. TOM OF	44. PART 2 OF	48. SONGWRITER	49. PIERCE	53. CORSAGE	54. SYCOPHANT	55. BORDER —	57. ANTIPOLLUTION	58. SQUID'S	59. UNDO AN	60. ROCK'S PINK	61. OCTOBER	63. AVERAGE	64. STACK ROLE	65. CONSPIRE	66. NARROW	67. VITAMIN	69. PART 3 OF	73. PRESIDENTIAL	74. PHILATELIST'S	76. FRANK	77. — MAN	79. CLEANING	82. CASTLE	83. CUSTOM	85. BELIEF	86. VIRAL ILLNESS	87. EVERYTHING	88. BACALL OR	90. PARAGUAYAN	91. UK HONOR	92. GOOLY	94. GOURMET	95. PART 4 OF	98. HUMBLE	100. IT MAY GET	101. HALL'S	102. — DAME	105. CAVORT IN	107. MADE COTTON	109. THE CHOSEN	110. WWII SITE	111. RUSH	112. PERIODIC-	115. END OF	122. ZSA ZSA'S	123. ACTOR	124. VIRGILIAN	125. VINTNER	126. FLED	127. WORD WITH	128. IN	130. ARCHITECTURAL	131. — DECO	132. SINGER	133. TV'S	134. WITH 103	135. POET	136. MCKUEN	137. "A DANDY IN	138. OINKERS	139. BARRIE SPRITE	142. PUT THE	143. BIBLICAL	145. TO BE, IN	146. POKE FUN AT	147. RANGE ROPE	148. SHIRLEY OF	150. NOVICE	151. MAKE — OF	152. BETE NOIRE	155. CIRCUS	156. "MAMA"	159. KIND OF PAINT	160. ARMADA	162. CARTOON CRY	163. CHARLE-	168. EXCAVATED	170. RESERVED	171. WHERE	172. DEVILS FIGHT	173. HIGH-TONED	174. POC,	175. MRS. MUNSTER	178. IT'LL CURL YOUR	180. DRAMATIST	181. RISK AN	183. TINTS	184. CUFFS	185. SAW	186. HENS AND	189. RECORD ABBR.	190. HENS AND	193. "ANGEL"	195. SOMETHING	196. "— DON'T	197. BLOCKER OR	199. FIREFLY, FOR	200. LAWN	202. MORE UP-TO-	203. SEE 34	204. BIG GUY	206. SKIRT FEATURE	207. SILLY CAESAR	208. PEDIGREED	210. BALLAD OR	211. ACTRESS	212. MAINTAIN	213. ACTOR AMAZ	214. HAMMETT	216. GRAB ALL THE	217. VANE LETTERS	218. VELVET FINISH	219. FREE (OF)	220. PRO-GUN	221. BANKBOOK
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MARK TRAIL

MANY OF THE WORLD'S FISH STOCKS ARE BEING OVERFISHED, AND THE MAGNIFICENT BLUEFIN TUNA IS AMONG THAT GROUP

SHARKS, COD AND SWORDFISH ARE INCLUDED IN THE GREAT FISHES THAT ARE DECLINING IN MANY AREAS

BLUEFIN TUNA ARE THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER FISH IN THE SEA... THEY MAY REACH 12 FEET IN LENGTH AND WEIGH AS MUCH AS 1,500 POUNDS

THE ATLANTIC TUNA'S BELLY IS LAYERED WITH FAT AND IS IN GREAT DEMAND—IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE FINEST FISH IN THE SEA FOR SUSHI

TENS OF MILLIONS OF SHARKS ARE ALSO KILLED EACH YEAR, AND A LARGE NUMBER ARE FINNED ALIVE AND THEN ALLOWED TO SINK TO THE BOTTOM...THE FINS ARE USED FOR SHARK-FIN SOUP


FISHING BOATS MAY ILLEGALLY EXTEND MILES OF LONGLINES, WITH THOUSANDS OF BAITED HOOKS, AND HOOK FISH AS WELL AS MARINE MAMMALS, SEA BIRDS AND TURTLES...NEARLY 30% OF THE UNWANTED CATCH IS DISCARDED

THE NUMBERS OF FISH AND OTHER MARINE CREATURES ARE A FRACTION OF WHAT THEY USED TO BE...SCIENTISTS AND WELL-MANAGED FISHERIES ARE WORKING TO HELP PRESERVE OCEAN LIFE

FARM-RAISED FISH HAVE RELIEVED SOME OF THE STRESS ON MANY SPECIES, BUT THE OCEAN CAN'T CONTINUE TO BE DRAINED OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-3714

WHATZIT Solution:
No comment

WANTED TO LEASE

Looking to lease house property for 55 years and used cars. We pay cash. Call 323-7676.

Antonio L. and Consolacion N. Taisacan
P. O. Box 500025
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. 235-0814

Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE) FCD AD
ADOPTION OF) CIVIL ACTION
Jessica Maria Norita) NO. 09-0448
Taisacan, Peter Joe Norita)
Taisacan, and Brittney Rose) ORDER
Keiomi Taisacan-Vilante) SHORTENING
Minor Children) TIME AND
By) NOTICE OF
Antonio L. and) HEARING
Consolacion N. Taisacan)
Petitioners,)
)

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on August 12, 2009 at 9:00 A.M.

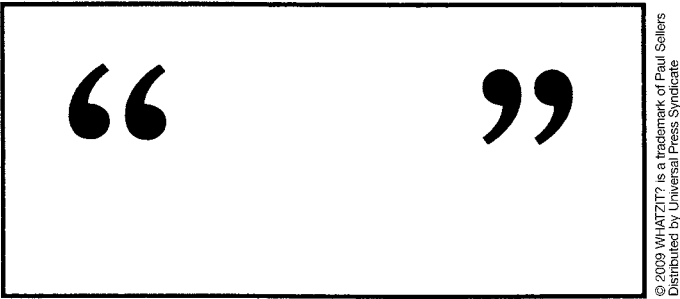
Dated this 30th day of July, 2009.

/s/ Kenneth L. Govendo
Judge

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section



PACIFIC TRADING CO., LTD.

Is seeking qualified individuals for the following positions:

Accountant

Job Description:

Will be assigned to any of the following functions: Cashiering/invoicing; preparing sales and collection reports; ensure accuracy of inventory; analyzing procedures and prepare recommendations; conduct physical inventory count; handle A/P, A/R or GL books; prepare various accounting reports; and other related duties to be assigned by the supervisor.

Qualification:

- At least 2-3 years working experience - in a similar industry, if possible
- Accounting graduate
- Computer literacy in MS Office Programs (Word & Excel) and other Software
- Must have strong communication skills, analytical skills, and attention to details
- Must be honest, reliable, trustworthy and with excellent teamwork skills.
- Willing to work long hours or on weekends.

Interested applicants may apply in person
or send résumé via email to hr@ptcsaipan.com
no later than August 14, 2009



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235 NEWS

Ortiz says union told him of 2003 positive test



NEW
YORK
(AP) —
Boston

Red Sox slugger David Ortiz became the latest star implicated in baseball's ever-growing drug scandal, acknowledging Thursday that the players' union confirmed he tested positive in 2003.

Shortly after hitting the go-ahead home run that beat Oakland 8-5, Ortiz responded to a story on *The New York Times'* Web site that he and former teammate Manny Ramirez tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs six years ago.

"I've just been told that the report is true," Ortiz said in a statement after contacting the union. "Based on the way I lived my life I'm surprised to learn I tested positive."

The popular Big Papi, who had never been linked to drugs, said he intended to find out what was in his system and would tell the Red Sox and the public.

"You know me—I will not hide and I will not make excuses," he said.

Alex Rodriguez, Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa are among the many All-Stars tainted by the cloud of steroids and drugs, which has called into question some of the sport's greatest achievements over the last two decades.

Ortiz and Ramirez led the Red Sox to the World Series title in 2004—their first in 86 years—and another championship in 2007.

Ramirez, now with the Los Angeles Dodgers, recently served a 50-game suspension for violating baseball's drug policy. Asked about this second alleged doping violation, he told reporters in St. Louis: "You want more information, I'm pretty sure you guys got the



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz, center, jumps into the arms of teammate Mike Lowell, left, as Red Sox's Kevin Youkilis, right, smiles after hitting a three-run home run in the seventh inning against the Oakland Athletics in a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Thursday, July 30, 2009.

phone number to the union. Call the union, and they can explain that to you guys."

"Me and David, we're like two mountains," he said. "We're going to keep playing the game, and we're going to keep doing good. We're trying to move forward; that's the key here."

Red Sox manager Terry Francona, who guided Boston to those two titles, said the news "blindsided everybody," including Ortiz.

"Nobody condones the use of performance-enhancing drugs ... the testing procedure was confidential. I don't know how you can go back on that now," he said.

In 2003, 104 major leaguers

tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs; the results were supposed to be anonymous and are now under court seal.

"Precisely for that reason, the Players Association will not, indeed cannot, comment on whether the information is accurate," union leader Donald Fehr said.

The *Times'* story cited lawyers involved in pending litigation over the testing results who spoke anonymously because the information is under seal. The newspaper did not say what the players tested positive for.

"Can somebody in baseball—we're all begging, people—get that stupid list out and move on," Chicago White Sox man-

ager Ozzie Guillen said. "This is ridiculous; this is embarrassing; this is a joke. Whoever is there is there, get them out, and that's it."

As for Ortiz, "too bad for him, too bad for baseball. Too bad for both," New York Yankees star Derek Jeter said.

"I'm sad for everyone. Once again, we're sitting here talking about this again."

There were no penalties for a positive test in 2003—the anonymous tests were conducted to determine if it was necessary to impose mandatory random drug testing across the major leagues in 2004. But federal agents seized the results as part of the BALCO investigation. The union has ar-

gued the search was illegal, and the case is currently before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In the meantime, the names on the list keep coming out one by one.

In June, the *Times* reported Sosa also was on the 2003 list, and Rodriguez admitted using performance-enhancing drugs after he was linked to the 2003 list earlier this year.

Asked about this latest report involving Ortiz, Rodriguez said, "Well, he's my friend, and I care for David."

"I have nothing else to say about that," the Yankees star said. "No, I'm not talking about it."

Major League Baseball declined to comment on the *Times'* report, telling The Associated Press it didn't have the list

of players who tested positive in 2003. Red Sox owner John Henry did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

Try as it might, baseball has not been able to escape the drug stain.

"We're just trying to move on and play the game, and play it clean, play it the right way, Texas pitcher Kevin Millwood said. "And this cloud keeps looming over. And when these names keep leaking out, it just builds this whole thing back up again."

The news revived an ongoing debate—should all 104 names be revealed?

"Coming out every couple months with a couple names here, a couple names there, it

could go on for years and years and years. It reopens a wound we're trying to close. I don't know what can be done," Seattle pitcher Jarrod Washburn said.

Said Atlanta star Chipper Jones: "It's like somebody wants to keep this on the tips of everybody's tongues. And if that's the case, I'd rather we just got it over with."

Yankees outfielder Johnny Damon played with Ortiz and Ramirez on those championship Red Sox teams. Will fans think those Boston clubs were full of steroid users?

"That probably is what being said, and that's what makes guys like me upset," Damon said.

Ramirez was a long-established star in 2003. Ortiz, in contrast, had been a part-time player before that season.

Ortiz had never hit more than 20 homers in a season as a part-time player in Minnesota early in his career. He came to Boston as a platoon player in 2003 and had four homers by July 1, then hit 27 the rest of the year.

Ortiz followed up with seasons of 41, 47 and 54 home runs as he stamped himself as one of the best sluggers in the game.

Last year, he dipped to 23 home runs, and his slump continued this season. He's hitting only .228 with 14 homers.

Ramirez returned from his suspension this month and quickly re-established his presence in the middle of the lineup for the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Boos have rained down on Ramirez throughout this week's series in St. Louis whenever he comes to the plate or touches the ball.

"He's a great player, and I don't think the suspension has anything to do with it," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said. "Personally, if he never got suspended they'd still be booing the hell out of him."

Ortiz, after drug report, hits go-ahead homer

BOSTON (AP)—Hours after he was linked to a positive drug test, David Ortiz hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning as the Boston Red Sox rallied to beat the Oakland Athletics 8-5 in the American League on Thursday.

With two runners aboard, Ortiz hit a two-out pitch from Craig Breslow (4-5) over the Red Sox bullpen and to the right of the 420 foot (128-meter) sign that marks the deepest part of Fenway Park. The Red Sox led 6-5.

White Sox 3, Yankees 2

At Chicago, DeWayne Wise hit an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth to give Chicago a win over New York.

Nick Swisher tied it in the top half with a solo home run after the Yankees fell behind 2-1 in the seventh thanks to some shoddy defense.

Orioles 7, Royals 3

At Baltimore, rookie Brad Bergesen allowed one run in seven innings, then hobbled off the mound after being hit with a line drive on his final pitch, as Baltimore beat Kansas City.

Bergesen (7-5) was struck in the leg by a sharp grounder from Billy Butler. Details of the injury were not immediately known.

Rangers 7, Mariners 1

At Arlington, Texas, Derek Holland took a one-hit shutout into the ninth inning and Michael Young hit two of Texas' five home runs in a win over Seattle.

Holland (4-6) retired 24 of his first 25 batters and struck out 10. The only hits he allowed were Jack Hannahan's broken-bat single with two outs in the fifth and Franklin Gutierrez's two-out single in the ninth on the rookie left-hander's 118th and final pitch.

Dodgers 5, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Matt Kemp hit a two-run single in the 10th inning for his third hit, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers end a season-worst four-game losing streak with a victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Casey Blake had four hits and is 7 for 10 the last two games for Los Angeles, which avoided a four-game sweep. The Dodgers, who lead the NL in hitting and are second in scoring with an average of nearly five runs, finally got rolling after totaling three runs on 33 hits the first three games.

Giants 7, Phillies 2

At San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval had a solo home run and a two-run double as San Francisco beat Philadelphia for its fourth straight win.

Jonathan Sanchez (4-9) struck out seven in 5 2-3 innings in his

first home start since throwing the team's first no-hitter in 33 years.

Eugenio Velez had a career-high three hits and drove in three runs for the Giants.

Mets 7, Rockies 0, 1st game Rockies 4, Mets 2, 2nd game

At New York, Jorge De La Rosa set a franchise record by winning his seventh consecutive start as Colorado earned a split in the day-night doubleheader and snapped New York's five-game winning streak.

The Mets won the opener 7-0 behind Johan Santana, who struck out eight in seven sharp innings. Angel Berroa had a two-run double in New York's five-run second and David Wright also drove in two runs.

Santana (12-8) allowed four hits and walked one in his first career outing against Colorado,

closing out July with a 3-2 record and 1.82 ERA in five starts.

Braves 6, Marlins 3, 10 innings

At Miami, Brian McCann hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning to give Atlanta the victory over Florida.

Nate McLouth led off the Braves 10th against Luis Ayala (1-3) with a single. After a sacrifice and an intentional walk to Chipper Jones, McCann hit a 2-2 pitch over the right-center field wall.

Cubs 12, Astros 3

At Chicago, Kevin Hart won his third straight start, Jake Fox and Milton Bradley hit back-to-back homers and Chicago beat Houston for its 11th win in 14 games since the All-Star break.

Kosuke Fukudome, who reached base five times, and Ryan Theriot had four RBIs

apiece for the Cubs.

Padres 7, Reds 4

At Cincinnati, rookie Will Venable hit a three-run homer to help Tim Stauffer earn his first win in almost three years as San Diego romped over Cincinnati.

Venable drove in a career-high four runs and had four hits as the Padres picked up a third consecutive win for the first time since they won 10 straight from May 15-25. He only had five RBIs in 38 games this season coming into the game.

Brewers 7, Nationals 5

At Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo struck out 11 in seven innings and Mike Cameron slid under catcher Wil Nieves' tag for the go-ahead run in the seventh, lifting Milwaukee over Washington.

Prince Fielder hit his 25th homer and Craig Counsell added a homer and three RBIs for the Brewers, who won consecutive games for the first time this month.

Lamar Odom staying with Lakers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lamar Odom is sticking with the NBA champs.

After a rocky free-agent courtship, Odom agreed on a multiyear contract Thursday to stay with the Los Angeles Lakers, keeping intact most of the roster that won the club's 15th NBA title this summer.

Lakers spokesman John Black confirmed an agreement, but wouldn't discuss specifics. Odom still hasn't signed the deal, but could do so as early as Friday.

The contract, which is expected to contain three guaranteed years and a fourth-year option, maintains the Lakers' core of Kobe Bryant, Pau Gasol, Derek Fisher and Odom alongside new teammate Ron Artest. Odom's return means Los Angeles likely will be favored to win another Western Conference title—and that's what the 6-foot-10 Odom said he prized most during his eventful few weeks as a free agent.

Odom, a 10-year NBA veteran, proved his determination to win last season when he accepted and thrived in



In this June 18, 2009 file photo Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom answers questions during a news conference in El Segundo, Calif. Odom agreed on a multiyear contract Thursday to stay with the Los Angeles Lakers.

AP

a reserve role for the Lakers, averaging 12.3 points and 9.1 rebounds during the postseason.

Odom repeatedly said he preferred to stay with the Lakers, but apparently came close to leaving—either by choice or necessity. Los Angeles pulled a previous contract offer from the table when Odom was slow to respond to it, and Dwyane Wade heavily lobbied Odom to return to Miami, where they spent one season together.

Portland also apparently made a bid for Odom's versatile offensive game and passing skills, but the New York City native always made it clear he preferred the personal opportunities and lifestyle only found in Los Angeles, where he spent his first four NBA seasons with the Clippers and his last

five with the Lakers.

After playing extensively up front last season, Odom could move to the backcourt for more playing time in the fall. Center Andrew Bynum will be healthy after missing much of last season with a torn knee ligament, while Artest's defensive versatility allows him to guard much taller players—perhaps freeing up Odom to use his improved 3-point stroke from the perimeter.

Among the key players in last season's run to the title, the Lakers lost only forward Trevor Ariza, who emerged as a dependable rotation player last season, particularly during the playoffs. Ariza joined the Houston Rockets after Los Angeles signed Artest, the mercurial defensive specialist who finally realized his long-held dream to play with Bryant.

NBA BRIEFS

Mavs sign big man Drew Gooden

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks signed Drew Gooden and expect him to back up Dirk Nowitzki at power forward and play alongside him at center. The deal, agreed to late last week, was announced Thursday. Gooden is joining his seventh team, having also played for Memphis, Orlando, Cleveland, Chicago, Sacramento and San Antonio. Over his career, he averages 12.0 points and 7.9 rebounds per game. "We are very pleased to add Drew to our front line for the upcoming season," team president Donnie Nelson said. "Drew is a veteran player with NBA finals experience that is entering the prime of his career at 27 years old. He will provide valuable minutes at both the center and power forward positions with his tenacity in the paint, rebounding and ability to knock down shots."

has played the last three seasons with the Mavericks, averaged 3.4 points and 1.8 rebounds in 16.5 minutes for Dallas last season.

Bulls waive Johnson III, Nelson

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Bulls have waived forward Linton Johnson III and guard DeMarcus Nelson. In his second stint with the Bulls, Johnson played in eight games and averaged 1.1 points and 1.0 rebounds. He was signed to two 10-day contracts in March before getting a deal for the remainder of the season on April 7. A former Duke star, Nelson was the Golden State Warriors' starting point guard on opening night, but he quickly fell out of favor with coach Don Nelson and played in just 13 games before being waived. He signed with the Bulls on April 4 but didn't play for them.

Warriors acquire George from Toronto

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors have acquired guard-forward Devean George and cash from the Toronto Raptors for guard Marco Belinelli. The trade was announced on Thursday. The Warriors, who drafted Davidson star Stephen Curry last month and have Monta Ellis slated as their point guard, like George's versatility to play more than one spot in coach Don Nelson's up-tempo offense. The 31-year-old George, a 10-year NBA veteran who

Pacers sign forward Solomon Jones

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers have signed free-agent forward Solomon Jones to a multiyear contract. He spent the past three seasons with Atlanta. The deal was announced Thursday, and Pacers president Larry Bird says Jones can help the team's interior defense. Jones averaged 3.0 points and 2.3 rebounds last season and shot 60 percent. Jones played at South Florida and was drafted by the Hawks in the second round in 2006.

Bucks sign first-rounder Jennings

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks signed first-round draft pick Brandon Jennings to a two-year contract worth almost \$4.5 million on Tuesday.

Jennings was picked 10th overall in June and signed the rookie-scale deal that includes team options for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The slot for the 10th pick pays at least \$3.75 million over two years, but teams can sign players for slightly less than the scale. Jennings will make a just over \$2.16 million this season and \$2.33 million in 2010-11.

"I'm excited to sign my contract and make my NBA career official," Jennings said. "I look forward to working with Coach (Scott) Skiles and learning

everything I can from him, as well as my teammates. I can't wait to get the season started and contribute to the success of our team."

Jennings, 19, is expected to be the point guard of the future for the Bucks and general manager John Hammond has repeatedly praised Jennings' unselfishness. Milwaukee's other top point guards include Ramon Sessions, who is a restricted free agent and has a qualifying offer from the Bucks, and Luke Ridnour, who has one year left on his contract.

Playing in the summer league in Las Vegas, Jennings led all players in assists (8.2) and steals (3.6) while scoring 14.6 points in the five games.

He chose to play in Italy last season

instead of going to college after being the 2008 Naismith Player of the Year as a senior at Oak Hill Academy in Virginia. He had committed to play at Arizona, but elected to turn pro and joined Lottomatica Virtus Roma of the Italian League, averaging 5.5 points and 1.6 rebounds in 27 games last season.

Jennings learned one lesson shortly after he was drafted when he drew unwanted attention for a profanity-laced and provocative telephone conversation on YouTube that incorrectly discussed his new team's personnel moves.

He said he didn't know he was being recorded and shouldn't have been talking about team business that he didn't know anything about.



GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Tiger Woods played a lot like the guy who didn't make the cut at the British Open.

Woods shot a 1-under 71 on Thursday at the Buick Open, his first tournament since disappointing at Turnberry.

He finished the first round tied for 128th on putts inside 10 feet and eight shots back of leader Steve Lowery.

"Probably one of the worst putting days I've ever had," he said. "It was just terrible."

Two weeks ago in the British Open, Woods was 7 over during a six-hole stretch and ended up missing a cut for the first time in three years.

If Woods fails to break 70 in the second round Friday morning, he will

Woods' putting puts him in trouble at Buick Open

put himself in danger of missing cuts in consecutive tournaments for the first time as a pro.

It's too early, though, to count him out for the weekend at Warwick Hills even though the cut is usually 3 or 4 under. He opened the 2005 Buick Open with a 71, bounced back with a course-record tying 61 and finished tied for second.

"I not only have to play well to make the cut, I got to play well to get myself back in contention," said the two-time Buick Open champion, whose worst finish in eight previous stops at here was a tie for 11th. "Guys are going to continue to go low. That's the way the golf course is playing right now."

"It's going to be 20-plus to win."

It usually is.

The average winning score has been almost 21 under par since 2000 at Warwick Hills, one of the easiest courses on the PGA Tour.

Lowery took advantage of perfect conditions—smooth, receptive greens and calm winds—in the morning by tying a course record with a 29 on the front nine and finishing 9-under 63.

John Senden also did, making five straight birdies in the morning and finishing with nine to end up only a shot off the lead.

Y.E. Yang, James Nitties, Vaughn Taylor, Brian Vranesh were two strokes back with 65s.

The 48-year-old Lowery hasn't finished better than 24th this year. He won

at Pebble Beach last year, earning a third victory on the PGA Tour and his first since 2000.

Lowery has an 18-hole lead for the 19th time and is hoping to turn that tenuous position at the Buick Open into a title for just the second time in his career.

"It looks like the weather is going to be pretty mild this week, so my (prediction to win) was 24 under," Lowery said. "Obviously 9 under is a great start, but if you don't follow it up the rest of the week, it ain't going to hang around."

"You got to get it done for the last three days."

Woods didn't see his awful performance coming.

He was pleased with his practice sessions following his flop at the British Open and had five birdies on the front nine during Wednesday's pro-am.

Woods was accurate off the tee early, missing only one fairway before making the turn, and his approach shots were solid much of the day.

But his putter let him down.

Woods three-putted from 12 feet on his second hole for bogey and missed a 6-foot par putt on 5, leading to a big sigh and slumped shoulders. He pulled makable putts at 15 and 17.

Woods did make a clutch putt from 20-plus feet to save par at No. 4, but the result was the only thing he liked.

"I actually pulled it," he said. "I hit a bad putt there, went in. I hit a really good putt at 15, hit something and went left."

"It's just one of those days. One of those weird days."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	62	40	.608	—
Boston	59	42	.584	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	55	47	.539	7
Toronto	49	53	.480	13
Baltimore	44	57	.436	17 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	53	47	.530	—
Minnesota	52	50	.510	2
Chicago	52	51	.505	2 1/2
Cleveland	42	60	.412	12
Kansas City	40	61	.396	13 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	60	40	.600	—
Texas	57	43	.570	3
Seattle	53	49	.520	8
Oakland	43	58	.426	17 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	58	42	.580	—
Florida	53	49	.520	6
Atlanta	52	50	.510	7
New York	49	52	.485	9 1/2
Washington	32	70	.314	27

Central Division

Chicago	54	46	.540	—
St. Louis	56	49	.533	1/2
Houston	51	51	.500	4
Milwaukee	51	51	.500	4
Cincinnati	45	56	.446	9 1/2
Pittsburgh	43	58	.426	11 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	63	39	.618	—
San Francisco	56	46	.549	7
Colorado	55	47	.539	8
Arizona	44	58	.431	19
San Diego	41	62	.398	22 1/2

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 7, Colorado, 1st game
Colorado 4, N.Y. Mets 2, 2nd game
San Diego 7, Cincinnati 4
Milwaukee 7, Washington 3
Chicago Cubs 12, Houston 3
Atlanta 6, Florida 3, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 5, St. Louis 3, 10 innings
San Francisco 7, Philadelphia 2
Baltimore 7, Kansas City 3
Boston 8, Oakland 5
Texas 7, Seattle 1
Chicago White Sox 3, N.Y. Yankees 2

BUICK OPEN SCORES

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Michi-
gan (AP) — Scores Thursday from the
Buick Open, a \$5.1 million US PGA Tour
event at 7,127-yard, par-72 Warwick
Hills G&CC:

FIRST ROUND

Steve Lowery	29-34-63
John Senden	33-31-64
Y.E. Yang	32-33-65
James Nitties	32-33-65
Vaughn Taylor	32-33-65
Brian Vranesh	32-33-65
Paul Goydos	34-32-66
Greg Chalmers	36-30-66
Troy Matteson	34-32-66
Jeff Klauk	34-32-66
Corey Pavin	35-31-66
Chris DiMarco	34-32-66
Tom Pernice, Jr.	35-32-67
Marc Leishman	33-34-67
Tom Byrum	32-35-67
Jay Williamson	35-32-67
Rory Sabbatini	33-34-67
Rod Pampling	34-33-67
Chris Stroud	31-36-67
Kevin Stadler	34-33-67
Neal Lancaster	34-33-67
Michael Letzig	35-32-67
Tim Herron	34-33-67
Jason Bohn	35-33-68
Bill Haas	35-33-68
Nick O'Hern	32-36-68
Woody Austin	34-34-68
Chad Campbell	34-34-68
Ben Crane	36-32-68
John Rollins	36-32-68
Mark Hensby	35-33-68
Matt Jones	35-33-68
Matt Harmon	34-34-68
Bill Lunde	34-34-68
Brad Adonis	36-32-68
J.P. Hayes	35-33-68
Rocco Mediate	35-33-68
Greg Owen	35-33-68
Charlie Wi	33-35-68
Billy Mayfair	35-33-68
Leif Olson	37-31-68
Darron Stiles	32-36-68
Scott Cashell	34-34-68
Dean Wilson	34-35-69
Fredrik Jacobson	33-36-69
Patrick Sheehan	35-34-69
Kevin Na	35-34-69
Stuart Appleby	35-34-69
Jim Furyk	35-34-69

Tim Petrovic	34-35-69
Paul Stankowski	37-32-69
David Duval	37-32-69
Kris Blanks	35-34-69
Aron Price	35-34-69
Mark Brooks	33-36-69
Jeff Quinney	36-33-69
Nick Watney	35-34-69
Nathan Green	35-34-69
Brandt Snedeker	34-35-69
Jonathan Byrd	35-34-69
Todd Hamilton	34-35-69
Mark Calcavecchia	34-35-69
J.J. Henry	35-34-69
Ryan Moore	35-34-69
Scott Sterling	35-34-69
Wil Collins	36-33-69
Matt Hill	37-32-69
Bob Estes	36-34-70
Kent Jones	35-35-70
Omar Uresti	35-35-70
Guy Boros	36-34-70
James Driscoll	37-33-70
Ryan Palmer	35-35-70
Michael Bradley	35-35-70
Scott Piercy	36-34-70
Heath Slocum	38-32-70
Jimmy Walker	35-35-70
Spencer Levin	36-34-70
Shaun Micheel	34-36-70
Craig Barlow	34-36-70
Tag Ridings	36-34-70
Bob Heintz	35-35-70
Billy Andrade	36-34-70
Steve Flesch	36-34-70
K.J. Choi	36-34-70
David Peoples	36-34-70
Charles Warren	35-35-70
Jason Gore	38-32-70
Jonathan Kaye	35-35-70
Matt Bettencourt	35-35-70
Scott Hebert	36-34-70
Rick Price	37-33-70
James Oh	35-35-70
Roland Thatcher	36-34-70
Martin Laird	36-35-71
Brad Faxon	36-35-71
Chez Reavie	35-36-71
Brian Bateman	35-36-71
Andres Romero	36-35-71
Scott Verplank	36-35-71
Joe Ogilvie	36-35-71
Carlos Franco	37-34-71
Robert Garrigus	35-36-71
Tyler Aldridge	36-35-71
Matt Weibring	35-36-71
Colt Knost	38-33-71
Brett Quigley	38-33-71
Arjun Atwal	34-37-71
Daniel Chopra	36-35-71
Tiger Woods	37-34-71
Brian Gay	36-35-71
Webb Simpson	35-36-71
Dicky Pride	36-35-71
Brendon de Jonge	35-36-71
Chris Baryla	36-35-71
Jeff Maggert	36-36-72
Stephen Leaney	35-37-72
Peter Lonard	37-35-72
Justin Leonard	39-33-72
Joe Durant	37-35-72
Lee Janzen	37-35-72
Peter Tomasulo	35-37-72
Ken Duke	38-34-72
Ricky Barnes	36-36-72
Scott Gutschewski	35-37-72
Matthew Borchert	34-38-72
Casey Wittenberg	37-35-72
Andrew Ruthkoski	37-35-72
Troy Kelly	36-36-72
Scott McCarron	38-35-73
Ted Purdy	37-36-73
Eric Axley	38-35-73
Steve Allan	37-36-73
John Merrick	38-35-73
Ryan Brehm	35-38-73
Tommy Gainey	36-37-73
Johnson Wagner	36-37-73
Aaron Watkins	37-36-73
David Mathis	38-35-73
Brendon Todd	36-37-73
Danny Lee	37-37-74
Jason Day	38-36-74
Nicholas Thompson	38-36-74
Jamie Lovemark	38-36-74
Marc Turnesa	38-37-75
Derek Fathauer	38-37-75
Glen Day	38-37-75
Frank Lickliter II	39-36-75
Jimmy Chestnut	38-38-76
Greg Kraft	37-39-76
D.A. Points	40-36-76
John Daly	36-40-76
David Gossett	41-35-76
Robert Gamez	41-40-81
Randall Hutchison	41-40-81

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

	W	D	L	Pts.
International FC	4	2	0	14
Remington	3	1	2	10
Korean Juniors	3	1	2	10
KFAS	3	0	3	9
MP United	2	0	4	6
Matanza FC	2	0	4	6
Independents FC	2	0	4	6

WONG

From Page 28

Championship record, breaking the 2:09.42 Kosuke Kitajima of Japan posted in Barcelona, Spain in 2003. Kitajima holds the world record in the 200m breaststroke event at 2:07.51, which he made in Japan in June this year.

Meanwhile, Wong's team-

mates, Kensuke Kimura, Kai Staal, and Cooper Graf took a rest in Day 5, but were scheduled to return to action last night.

The CNMI Team was set to compete in the 4x200m freestyle relay last night, while Wong and Staal were entered in the 50m freestyle swim. Wong was on Heat 8 and holds a personal best time of 25.81 seconds, while Staal was on Heat 9 with a better PBT of 25.39 seconds.

WBO: Cotto can be forced to stake his belt



Even if Miguel Cotto doesn't want to, he'd likely be forced to stake his World Boxing Organization welterweight belt against Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

This was the opinion of WBO president Francisco "Paco" Valcarcel, who's batting for the megabuck bout to be a title fight.

In a talk with Dr. Allan Recto of Philboxing on Tuesday, Valcarcel noted that the first thing Pacquiao needs to do is write the WBO a letter requesting that he and Cotto

fight for the title and then tell chief promoter Bob Arum to inform the WBO about it.

Together, they can pressure Cotto to stake his title even if the fight is going to be at a catch weight of 145 lb.

Valcarcel also said in a separate interview with Jose Manuel Martino of Boxeo Mundial

that Cotto still would have to pay the WBO \$150,000 whether or not he risks the title or not.

Valcarcel said the catch weight poses no problem to a possible

title bout. Oscar De La Hoya and Bernard Hopkins also disputed the middleweight (160 lb) belt at a catch weight of 158 lb on Sept. 14, 2004.

Though Pacquiao is willing to fight Cotto even if the title is not at stake, fight fans are pushing for a title bout because

if the Filipino icon wins he'd become the only boxer to win titles in seven different weight classes, including the Ring featherweight belt. (PDI)



Cotto

MEN'S

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Remington is in a tie for second place with Korean Juniors, as they finished the first round with identical 3-1-2 slates.

The Matthew Holley-coached Remington ended the first round on a winning note after whipping MP United, 6-2, last Sunday. Jeeraphong Thoengaket scored all Remington's goal, making five of them in the first half and adding one in the second.

Joe Miller notched both goals for MP United, which finished the first round with a 2-0-4 mark, tying Matansa FC and Independents FC for fifth to seventh place in the team standings.

MP United hopes to end the triple-tie, as it collides with Matansa FC this Sunday in the first game at 12nn.

Matansa absorbed its fourth

loss in six games in the first round after bowing to Korean Football Association of Saipan in the second game last Sunday, 4-1.

Matansa's lone goal in the game was courtesy of Tej Gurung, who scored in the five-minute mark in the second half.

KFAS drew two goals apiece from Lee Jun Woo and Kim Hyung Jin to take solo third place in the team standings. Jin scored KFAS's first goal in the 37th minute of the first half. Woo made the next two (8th and 11th minute) in the second half before Jin hit his second goal in the 21st to give KFAS a 3-0-3 slate.

KFAS's first foe in the second round of the regular season will be the streaking Korean Juniors. The Korean Juniors-KFAS tiff will be played at 4pm.

Korean Juniors will be coming off a 5-2 triumph over Independent FC last Sunday. Yoong Jae Yong and Brian Ko led Ko-

rean Juniors victory over Independent FC, as they nailed two goals apiece.

Li Kae Hyuck broke the ice in the game, as he scored in the eighth minute of the first half. Ko followed suit with his first goal in the 25th minute and Korean Juniors made it a 3-0 lead after Yong also logged his first goal three minutes later.

Independent FC made it to the scoreboard in the second half behind Jari Voutilainen's goal in the 48th minute, but Korean Juniors answered with back-to-back goals in a span of a minute to keep its distance.

Ko tallied his second goal in the game in the 52nd minute and a minute later, Yong found the back of the net to give Korean Juniors a 5-1 lead. Independents failed to recover from thereon, as the best it could do was to score one goal from Thibaul Sanchez in the 61st.

HEO

From Page 28

South Athletic Conference.

Though Heo won, 7-5, 1-6, 6-4, the CNMI bet said the match against Roberts was a tougher one because they played in a synthetic court.

"We were supposed to play in a hardcourt, but we ended up in a synthetic grass because it rained. I hate synthetic court. I lost my first serve and was down 2-0. The court was wet so it was way different from the normal synthetic court. It was really fast and I really had a hard time adjusting to the skidding bounces," said Heo, who broke Roberts in the eighth game to grab the momentum in the first set.

"I broke him and tied the game

at 4-4. He was getting really angry and started making mistakes and I got the set, 7-5. In the second set, he really brought his game up and went on offense. He was serving a lot better, while I was playing poorly and lost the set easily," Heo said.

In the third set, Heo did no let himself bothered by a bad call in the early part of the deciding set and let Roberts pay the price for his poor judgment.

"In the third set, I got broken again early after experiencing a bad call. He called the ball out about five seconds after the point. I was down at 2-0 then, but I broke right away and went 2-2. We held serve and at 5-4 up, I broke him to win the match 6-4. I played alright and tried to keep everything in. I hit heavy and used a lot of slice in

the third set," Heo said.

With his confidence on a higher level after a win against a collegiate player, Heo soldiered on to the quarterfinals after beating a higher-ranked foe in straight sets, 6-4, 6-0.

Heo, who earned a French ranking (15) after competing in a series of tournaments in New Caledonia, defeated a certain Chatagner, who has a 4/6 ranking. The French Tennis Federation's lowest ranking starts at 30/5 to 0 and then to negative values. Players in the national level or those competing in ATP and ITF circuit usually have negative value rankings.

"He is a serve and volley player and he played well in the first set. He served very well and kept it to my backhand a lot. He didn't really have a lot of varia-

RGA to link up with TOC



The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its July Ace of

the Month Tournament in conjunction with the 2009 Tournament of Champions set this weekend at the sprawling Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

RGA tournament director Jess Wabol said only scores on the east course will count for the club. The TOC will be held on consecutive weekend's with the flights split evenly on the east and west courses. Tee-off time on both days are at 7am.

Score to beat in RGA's July tourney is the net 66 notched by junior golfer Jay Choi in the qualifier held earlier this month at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Choi's net score actually was three strokes behind Ray Tigilau's net 63. However, the 20-handicapper Tigilau, who carded a 41 and 43 on the front and back nines, respectively, had already won the April Ace and thus was disqualified to set the score to beat for the July Ace.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact RGA president Jordan Kosam at 483-4506 or Wabol at 288-1129. (PR)

tion though in his serves, so as the game progressed, I got used to the serve and was hitting return winners," Heo said.

After solving his problems with his foe's service game, Heo went with his own strategy.

"At 3-3, I broke him after hitting two good returns. On my serve, I didn't go for aces but just kicked it always to his backhand. His backhand and his groundstrokes in general were really weak. He couldn't beat me in a point from the back. I felt a lot more relaxed so my returns were better," said Heo, who ended his match at 9:30pm last Wednesday. "I was really tired and sleepy, but good thing I kept my returns going."

The CNMI netter was to face the tournament's No. 2 seed in the quarterfinals last Thursday.

en here who are fantastic players and athletes," White said.

White added Spain and Australia are favored to duel in the gold medal game.

The two powerhouse teams are in the quarterfinals, along with Canada, European champion Lithuania, Argentina, Russia, France, and the U.S. The quarterfinal round was set to start yesterday.

Other nations that joined the World Championships, but failed to advance were Czech Republic, Korea, Mali, China, and host Thailand.

terms of speed and athleticism," White said.

With the high level of competition comes a high-level officiating, too.

"We went to briefings and a clinic to discuss specific criteria based on the level of competition in this World Championship. Because the experience level of the referees is very high, the expectation of the level of officiating is also very high," the 32-year-old referee said.

White said FIBA sports director, Lubomir Kotleba, and FIBA referee supervisors Nosratollah

Jafarian of Iran and Geraldo Miguel Fontana of Brazil conducted the clinic.

When he is not officiating games, White said he spends some time watching the games thus he had a chance to see outstanding players in the tournament.

"Elizabeth Cambage of Australia is one of the outstanding athletes in this tournament. I have seen Marta Xargay from Spain as well, and she is their top player. I have heard of Skylar Diggins from the United States, but she has not impressed me that much yet. There are many young wom-

Lamar Odom staying with Lakers



Lamar Odom is sticking with the NBA champs. After a rocky free-agent courtship, Odom agreed on a multi-year contract Thursday to stay with the Los Angeles Lakers, keeping intact most of the roster that won the club's 15th NBA title this summer.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Ortiz says union told him of 2003 positive test

Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz became the latest star implicated in baseball's ever-growing drug scandal, acknowledging Thursday that the players' union confirmed he tested positive in 2003.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Wong shatters two more records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rezne Wong redeemed himself from a lackluster performance in the 200m individual medley with a two record-breaking swim in the 200m breaststroke event in Day 5 of the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome Italy.

Wong completed the 200m breaststroke race in two minutes, 26.83 seconds, shaving off more than three seconds from his previous best time of 2:30.54.



The 18-year-old swimmer's new PBT is also a new CNMI National mark and age group (17 to 18) record. His 2:30.54 was made during the 2009 Guam Championships in May.

Before competing in the 200m breaststroke event last Thursday night (Thursday morning on Saipan), Wong failed to make a new personal best time in the 200m individual medley as he clocked in at 2:14.96 last Wednesday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Shin Kimura, Kai Staal, and Rezne Wong pose at the jam-packed competition pool in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

Wong's best time is at 2:14.48.

When he returned to the pool on

Heat 3, Wong was fired up, as he went off to a strong start in the first 50m of

the 200m breaststroke race, timing in at 33.16 seconds. He slowed down in

the last 150m, but still it was enough to help him set two marks in one event.

This was Wong's fifth record in Rome. In Day 1 last Sunday morning (Sunday evening on Saipan), he shattered both the CNMI National and age group records in the 100m breaststroke. Wong was on Heat 4 in the 100m breaststroke and clocked in at 1:08.79 to pass the 1:10.21 he set on Dec. 27, 2008 during a meet in Guam.

In Day 3, the Marianas High School graduate timed in at 31.62 seconds in the 50m breaststroke swim to top Heat 5 and outrace eight other swimmers, including teammate Kai Staal.

Wong's 31.62 seconds is a new CNMI National record and age group mark, crushing the 32.55 seconds he recorded during a meet in Guam in May this year.

The 200m breaststroke event was Wong's second to the last individual swim. Uzbekistan's Dmitry Shvetsov won Heat 3 of the 200m breaststroke race with a time of 2:20.14. American swimmer Eric Shanteau had the fastest time in the qualifying race, submitting 2:08.55, which is a new World

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Men's football league starts second round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The second round of the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League will begin this Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field with newcomer Remington on a mission to hand league-leading International FC its first loss.

International FC led the first round of the double-round robin regular season of the seven-team league with its 4-2-0 win-draw-loss record. It will go for win No. 5 when it faces Remington in the second game this Sunday at 2pm.

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International FC's Bruce Berline gains possession of the ball, as KFAS' Gil Chong Koo falls during their game in the first round of the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League. The second round of the seven-team league will begin this Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Heo makes quarters in New Caledonia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CNMI junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo continued his winning ways in New Caledonia, as he racked up three straight victories in the 2009 Olympique Open at the Olympique Club Tennis Court in Noumea.

The three successive wins, which included a second-round triumph over a U.S. NCAA player, moved Heo to the quarterfinals of the annual tournament.

Heo, who made it into the finals in his previous tournament in the French territory last week, debuted in the 2009 Olympique Open with a straight set win over a certain Licchini, 6-0, 6-3, last Tuesday.

"It was a pretty easy match in the first set, as he made all the unforced errors. In the second set, I started getting tight and tired. I had trained for four hours before my match in the morning, so I was really tired and my legs felt heavy. He played a lot better in the second set and did serve and volley to my backhand," said Heo, who was upset by his foe's persistent comeback bids, but recovered his focus in time to win the game.

"My backhand returns were horrible and he would just put it away with easy volleys. I was frustrated, as he kept holding, but at 3-3, I finally got a hold of myself. I started hitting better backhand



Heo

returns and broke him," the 17-year-old CNMI netter said.

Heo was then pitted against Benjamin Roberts, who plays for Greensboro College, a Division III team in the U.S. NCAA and is grouped in the

See HEO on Page 27

White officiates World Championship games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

FIBA International referee Gabriel White was called for another tour of duty, as he was part of the pool of referees in the ongoing 2009 FIBA Women's U-19 World Championships being played in Bangkok, Thailand.

White, who also officiated games in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball

FIBA International referee Gabriel White officiates the Tunisia vs. Japan game in pool play of the 2009 FIBA Women's U-19 World Championships in Bangkok, Thailand last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tournament here and in the FIBA Europe Under 20 B-Division Championships in Debrecen, Hungary last year, debuted in the Women's U-19 World Championships last July 23 during the Japan versus Tunisia preliminary game.

The CNMI referee was among the 25 referees from the five FIBA Zones assigned to officiate games in the World Championships. He was one of the only two referees from FIBA Oceania to be given a chance to referee games

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